FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SELA HEAD VOICES SUPPORT FOR DEBT INITIATIVE

WA301207 Rome IPS in English 24 May 84

[Text] Caracas, Venezuela, May 24 (IPS) -- The head of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) today expressed his support for the idea of calling a ministerial regional meeting on the foreign debt crisis.

The presidents of Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and Colombia signed a joint statement May 19 condemning increases in U.S. interest rates, saying their foreign and finance ministers would meet soon to discuss the problem. The conference is reportedly set for mid-June in Bogota, Colombia.

SELA Permanent Secretary Sebastian Alegrett praised the initiative as "the beginning of a new stage in treatment of the Latin American debt problems," in a cable to the four presidents.

Alegrett is now in Havana, Cuba, at a preparatory meeting for the next U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) conference. The preparatory talks wound up today. Representatives of the 25 SELA member countries who attended the preliminary UNIDO meeting expressed their "firm support" for Alegrett's telegrams.

Alegrett said, "now as never before this century, the immense force of our solidarity and our capacity to confront difficulties through joint action and mutual support among Latin American countries is put to the test." He expressed confidence that the decisions made at the planned summit will be implemented "firmly and actively" and with the "willingness for dialogue which we have always had in our great enterprises."

Noting the growing regional support for the planned conference, the SELA secretary said the meeting will be the "right ambit to establish, within the limits of the precarious situation our countries are in the strategy, action, and initiatives which must be used to overcome our financial difficulties."

Alegrett cited the negative effects of the interest rate increase in his inaugural address at the Havana meeting, warning that it is aggravating the "deepest and most prolonged economic crisis" ever seen in Latin America. The increase in the U.S. prime rate, which has risen from 11 to 12.5 percent since the beginning of the year, will force "larger levels of contraction and adjustment in Latin American economies" and have "a heavy impact on the industrial sector and socio-economic structures," according to the SELA secretary. "Latin America is now in an intensely dramatic period," he warned, "in a climate rarified by lack of understanding, tension and hostility."

"We must be aware that servicing the foreign debt is a heavy burden which limits flows of resources toward investment," Alegrett said, and that "Latin American countries' exports will have to be the main source of financing for their development." Export earnings are now going mostly to pay the debt interest charges, he noted, a situation which leads to "stagnation and gradual weakening of the Latin American economy."

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN RECEIVES PCA MEMBERS

PY290035 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 28 May 84

[Excerpts] In compliance with the guidelines of the political dialogue prepared with the various political groups, President Alfonsin today met with members of the San Juan Bloc Party [Partido Bloquiesta de San Juan] and of the Communist Party.

President Alfonsin received in his office members of the Argentine Communist Party [PCA] headed by its Secretary General Athos Fava. Present at the meeting also were PCA leaders Jorge Pereyra, Fernando Nadra, Hector Agosti, Irene Rodriguez, and Rubens Iscaro. The latter answered questions posed by our reporter accredited to Government House:

[Begin Iscaro recording] After the meeting with the president, we can say that we are satisfied with the result of the talks. We were able to express all our points of view which focused mainly on the following: the need to establish a pact on democratic guarantees with the purpose of establishing a commitment of all political, social, and cultural forces of the country to defend democratic stability. This does not mean support for a given government. No; it means to defend the continuous stability of the Argentine democracy, and in this specific case, to defend the government of the Radical Civic Union to fulfill its 6-year term and to relinquish the presidential sash to the new president elected by the people after 6 years.

This pact on constitutional guarantees represents a single point, and thus an understanding with all fundamental forces of our country is possible. Of course there are other aspects involving understanding and unity. One of them is the need to establish a national and social liberation front. But we communists feel that we must act realistically, and although the pact on democratic guarantees can give assurances to us on the possibility of implementing a national liberation front, it involves reaching an agreement on different problems. But to achieve this, more discussions and more participation in the dialogue will be necessary. And we are willing to go through all this to reach this objective. [end recording]

CHILEAN EXPLANATION ON PLANE SATISFIES OFFICIALS

PY291433 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] San Martin Palace last night expressed satisfaction with the explanation given by the Chilean Government regarding the incident that occurred on Friday, 25 May, when an Argentine Airlines plane on an inaugural flight between Buenos Aires and Miami was forced to land at Antofagasta airport in Chile. This is stated in a communique issued by the Foreign Ministry, which adds that the incident was caused by the lack of adequate information about the plane's flight schedule and by the fact that the Chilean authorities did not receive in time the request for authorization to overfly Chilean territory.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON PERUVIAN-ECUADORAN DISPUTE

PY251156 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0203 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 May (TELAM) -- The Argentine Foreign Ministry tonight released a communique concerning statements that Air Force Chief of Staff Major General Teodoro Waldner reportedly made on the border dispute between Ecuador and Peru, statements which were published by the Ecuadoran press.

The Foreign Ministry states that Waldner's statements in Lima were distorted, for which reason it is issuing a statement signed by the foreign minister.

The official communique reads as follows: "The Argentine stance regarding the legal instrument signed by Peru and Ecuador in Rio de Janeiro in 1942, which was also signed by our country, Chile, Brazil, and the United States in their capacity as guarantors, remains unchanged. Furthermore, it is necessary to state that our country's policy is not aimed at favoring a given country but, as is traditional, is aimed at promoting talks and a rapprochement among all the countries on this continent. Therefore, any interpretation which may commit the Argentine stand, diverting it from the above-mentioned policy, must be disregarded. [quotation marks as received]

Waldner went to Quito to attend one of the customary meetings of the conference of the Air Force chiefs of staff of America (CONJEFAMER), a meeting that was attended by representatives of all American countries. On that occasion, in the city of Lima, according to press reports, Waldner reportedly stated his support for Peru in its territorial dispute with Ecuador. This resulted in an adverse statement by the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry which even notified the Argentine ambassador in Quito, Juan Manuel Figueredo, of its annoyance in an official note. In this note, it was also stated that Waldner is not an official spokesman for international politics.

KELLY DISCUSSES AREA CRISIS, TALKS WITH U.S.

PY281835 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2208 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 May (NA) -- Foreign Affairs Secretary Elsa Kelly has affirmed that Argentina's relations with the Western world are based on common cultural values, noting, however, that "this does not mean that our interests are linked to policies of any specific bloc, let alone military policies, nor to the maintenance of the international monetary system."

On another subject, Kelly said that "the solution to the Central American and Caribbean crisis will not be military as one of the powers intends, but political, and we must not allow any foreign intervention" in the region. In a speech delivered to the Radical committee of the 27th electoral district in Buenos Aires, the diplomat reiterated that this crisis "deeply concerns" Argentina, warning about the danger of this conflict extending to the rest of Latin America.

She made it clear that Argentina is trying to become integrated with the other Latin American countries "because it is convinced that no country is capable of confronting alone the serious international crisis affecting the region." She said that the document signed by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico condemning the increase in interest rates and protectionist measures adopted by developed countries is an "unprecedented event." She stressed that the Latin American countries must regain "their leading international role by strengthening the consulting mechanisms between them."

She said that the government "is trying to show the world that democracy is possible in Argentina." She recalled that "a history of major and deep disagreements separates us" from the United States, adding that this disagreement "is not recent but started at the end of the last century." She remarked that "the U.S. influence on domestic problems cannot be avoided" and noted the need to strengthen the system of talks with Washington.

Kelly concluded by stating that "in the mechanism of dialogue that has been established with the United States, the government sought to avoid holding talks with representatives of economic groups linked to international decisionmaking centers."

LABOR MINISTER, CGT CONTINUE DELIBERATIONS

PY272055 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 May 84 p 9

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Labor Minister Juan Manuel Casella and top leaders of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) are to meet at the Ministry on Monday to reach a final agreement on union elections and discuss the government's wage policy, union sources said yesterday. Casella flatly denied late on Thursday night he was pressing the cabinet for an emergency wage hike.

Casella and the CGT are also to discuss the composition of the Argentine delegation to the International Labour Organization (ILO) June meet in Geneva.

The government proposal for union elections includes allowing all eligible union groupings to participate on the electoral overseer board and would provide for the elections within 30 days of the proposal's acceptance by union sectors, presidential delegate for union normalization Hugo Barrionuevo said last week. The union sources said a virtual agreement had been reached with the minister on the electoral issue during a meeting last Tuesday, but differences had flared up on wage policies, with the CGT men calling for immediate increases in collective agreement minimum wages. CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini said at the time the government "still doesn't understand the needs of the people."

The government offered the CGT five seats on the ILO delegation, sources said, and when the union grouping asked for another three the minister gave in but specified the CGT would have to pay additional expenses. Other seats are expected to go to Radicals Nestor Rompani of the Union Liaison Board and Luis Etchezar of the Committee of 20. The union sources revealed the CGT is preparing a statement to be read at the ILO meeting blasting the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) recessive policies for heavily indebted countries.

The CGT executive board is to hold a meeting on Monday after talking to Casella, at which they would reportedly decide on the date (possibly Wednesday or Thursday) on which former President Maria Estela Martinez would be invited to preside over a CGT board meeting at the Azopardo headquarters. Sources said the Justicialist Party head had offered support to the CGT plan of advocating a political and social front to strengthen the democratic system.

The petroleum workers union announced it would stage a 72-hour strike as from Wednesday to press wage claims. They stated a similar measure for 24 hours last May 15.

NAVY TO SELL SHIPS TO PAY FOR RENEWAL COSTS

PY290320 Paris AFP in Spanish 1457 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 May (AFP) -- Military and government sources today reported that Argentina will sell modern ships and even some naval units under construction to pay part of the cost of the renewal of its Navy.

With the strict adjustment of the defense budget ordered by the government of President Raul Alfonsin, reports have circulated during the past few days on the various positions which may be taken by the Navy in view of the growing pressure imposed by the state austerity. According to these sources, one of these positions is that of adopting critical measures to curb expenditures, such as minimizing the trips of the fleet, reducing logistic flights, suspending training and food, considerably reducing the number of conscripts, and even further reducing operating costs.

Another top naval group, holding a strictly professional position, feels that it would be suicidal to weaken the naval capability, taking into account two latent conflicts: the dispute with Chile over the Beagle Channel and the dispute with Great Britain over the Malvinas Islands, where the United Kingdom continues building a strategic airbase.

In this regard, there were persistent rumors that the Navy would give up two frigates and a submarine under construction in the FRG in order to pay for the other ships ordered from the German shipyards. Although these rumors did not provide further details, it is known that the ships under construction in the FRG include the sophisticated missile-launcher frigates Meko 360-H2 and Meko 140, while the submarines are of the TR-1700 and TR-1400 conventional propulsion type. It has been learned from sources close to the government that the ships to be auctioned would be the modern missile-carrier destroyers Hercules and Santisima Trinida, both on active duty. These ships are of the British Type 42 (or Sheffield class, for the first ship of the series sunk by the Argentines during the Malvinas war) and precisely because some of their systems are British-made, it would be impossible for Argentina to obtain the essential spare parts as long as the South Atlantic conflict persists.

The sources stated that the two groups agree that the country interested in purchasing these ships is Iran, and that for this reason the San Martin Palace (Argentine Foreign Ministry) had to rapidly deny the possible purchaser. The Foreign Ministry explained that since Iran is fighting a war with Iraq, a sale of this type could be interpreted by the Iraqi Government as an indirect aggression. Moreover, the Foreign Ministry officials warned those interested in the purchase that in December 1983, shortly after assuming power, the Alfonsin government released a declaration proposing a negotiated solution to the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

The sources concluded that all these subjects were presented recently to the Argentine President by Navy Chief of Staff (a post that was replaced by the commander in chief), Rear Admiral Ramon Arosa, with an apparent satisfactory result, although no further details have been revealed.

CHIEFS OF STAFF SPEAK ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

PY251908 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpts] The chiefs of staff of the three branches of the Armed Forces presided over ceremonies held at the headquarters of each branch to commemorate Independence Day.

General Jorge Arguindegui, Army chief of staff, stated this is a very special day on which government, people, and Armed Forces are united in the quest for a common objective, that is, to reaffirm the validity of the Constitution and its laws and to strengthen the representative, republican, and federal system of government. General Arguindegui, who made these remarks at Government House where he was participating in Independence Day ceremonies, emphasized the atmosphere of joy and coexistence prevailing in the country, 174 years after the attainment of independence.

General Teodoro Waldner, Air Force chief of staff, agreed with General Arguindegui and declined any further comment.

Rear Admiral Ramon Arosa, Navy chief of staff, said that this a suitable occasion to reaffirm our desire to advance on the basis of the principles laid down by our forefathers in 1810.

BIGNONE AT DISPOSAL OF ARMED FORCES COUNCIL

PY300025 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 May 84 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Former President Reynaldo Bignone, who is under preventive arrest on the orders of Federal Judge Carlos Oliveri for the disappearance of two conscripts, was put at the disposal of the Armed Forces Supreme Council after testifying in the abduction of another three conscripts who later turned up alive. The retired major general, who testified before the council for approximately three hours, arrived with 17 bodyguards travelling in five automobiles.

Bignone faces a trial by a federal court for the disappearance of Communist militants Luis Steimberg and Luis Garcia, who disappeared while they were doing military service at the Military College, of which Bignone was director at the time. Another three conscripts who were abducted simultaneously testified they were later returned to the college, where General Bignone personally apologized, offered them money, and granted them extended leave until they were discharged.

After Bignone's lawyer, former Justice Minister Jaime Lennon, requested the cases be transferred to military jurisdiction, the Criminal Appeals Court put the case of Steimberg and Garcia under the jurisdiction of Moron Judge Gainor but agreed the case of the three re-appeared conscripts be tried by a court-martial. The Armed Forces Supreme Council has asked Judge Gainor to declare himself not competent to handle the case and transfer it to military jurisdiction. This request is now under study by the Supreme Court.

ARMY MEMBERS DETAINED ON WEAPONS THEFT CASE

PY242352 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0049 GMT 24 May 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 23 May (TELAM) -- The Army General Staff has reported that an undisclosed number of Army members are at the disposal of the federal court on charges of theft and sale of weapons, ammunition, and explosives. The theft took place in military units of the Greater Buenos Aires area and Comodoro Rivadavia.

The Army note, which was signed by Lieutenant Colonel Norberto Miguel Giordano, press chief of the Army Headquarters, says: "In relation to the recent report by the news media related to the theft and illegal sale of war materiel, the Army chief of staff would like to inform the public of the following:

"This command ordered an investigation aimed at establishing and determining responsibilities regarding the theft and later illegal sale of weapons, ammunition, and explosives by members of the Army which apparently began early last year. The activities aimed at identifying the people responsible for this illegal action were initially carried out by military personnel with the cooperation of the Federal Police.

"In view of the development of this case and in accordance with current legislation the federal justice was given authority in this case to order the arrest of the people responsible and the confiscation of the materiel.

"The procedures under military jurisdiction were carried out by high level military personnel and the arrests outside military units were made by the Argentine Federal Police beginning on the night of 18 May 1984, in the Greater Buenos Aires area and Comodoro Rivadavia.

"The investigation of this case, which is under judicial supervision, continues, and the names of the people under arrest or the materiel confiscated have not been disclosed because the pre-trial inquest is secret. Any other information outside this official source is the sole responsibility of those providing it."

Weapons Trafficked Abroad

PY250133 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1930 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 May (NA) -- Authoritative military sources today revealed that most of the arms illegally trafficked abroad were FAL submachineguns. Seven noncommissioned officers are being held in detention in Comodoro Rivadavia and in a Buenos Aires barracks for this crime.

These arms were marketed in a neighboring country and not in Central America as it had originally been reported, at a price below the international market price, the above-mentioned sources added. Besides the FAL submachineguns, the smugglers were able to sell an artillery unit and a box of grenades. The FAL's were being marketed for one third of their international market value (approximately $3,500 [as received] each), and the grenades were being marketed at 7,000 pesos each.

In Comodoro Rivadavia, the people involved in the contraband were placed at the disposal of Judge Carlos Saenz Almagro, who moved his office to the local Federal Police bureau. In this bureau, Judge Saenz Almagro today continued with the proceedings, which are being kept secret. Saenz Almagro heard the statements of military men and civilians who, after the Malvinas war in 1982, had discarded a large number of arms, part of which were trafficked abroad. The five noncommissioned officers who were involved in Comodoro Rivadavia were detained inside a barracks while they were engaged in an arms sale, military sources revealed.

In the Villa Martelli case, in greater Buenos Aires, members of the Army and the Federal Police managed to recover what was stolen in an action carried out last Saturday in the town of Munro where reportedly a truck loaded with arms was intercepted. Several persons were detained in the above-mentioned operation, among them two Army noncommissioned officers. The robbery was detected on Friday and investigations were started immediately. These investigations were conducted by the Federal Police and the intelligence services, which managed to arrest the people involved in the robbery.

The traffickers gang in Comodoro Rivadavia had reportedly started their operations shortly after the end of the South Atlantic war when several noncommissioned officers from the Logistics Battalion No 9, which is headquartered in the 11 km area, discarded a large number of arms and reported them as lost during the war. After hiding them for some time, they started to sell them abroad, marketing them in a neighboring country.

Chief of Staff Comments

PY251556 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1031 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 May (TELAM) -- General Jorge Arguindegui, Army chief of staff, last night confirmed that not only military men but also civilians will be arrested in the case involving illegal sales of arms belonging to the Army. He made this statement at the end of a meeting with President Alfonsin at Government House designed to coordinate details of the main ceremony commemorating Army Day which will be held 29 May in Mendoza with the participation of the chief executive. Arguindegui also discussed his visit to South Korea.

He said that the judge in charge of the case is pursuing his investigation and the only information available was disclosed 23 May in the official communique; everything else is protected by the secrecy of the proceedings.

Arguindegui went on to discuss his trip to South Korea. He said he made the trip in response to many invitations issued by this Asian country in order to launch an exchange between the Armies of the two countries. He emphasized the military role of South Korea, explaining that this country has been in a state of war readiness for 30 years; thus viewing and touring Army units in that country will help the studies which the Armed Forces branches are currently conducting jointly and separately. Asked about reports that the tour had cost the state $120,000, Arguindegui explained that the trip cost $9,350.60 plus per diem expenses amounting to $4,193.

He also said that the conflict between the Army and its food suppliers is about to be resolved and negotiations are continuing.

Asked about the alleged displeasure among the lower ranks over their salaries, he said that this displeasure is felt throughout the country and added that we must all pull our weight and make the sacrifices required from us in order to get the country going.

Returning to the subject of stolen weapons, Arguindegui said that the exact number of persons arrested is unknown, and he refused to make any further comment, claiming secrecy of the proceedings.

FOREIGN MINISTER CAPUTO REPORTEDLY ILL

PY251843 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpt] Shortly before 1000 today Argentine President Raul Alfonsin met with the members of the diplomatic corps in Argentina who came to congratulate him on Independence Day. The president was accompanied by Vice President Victor Martinez and Foreign Affairs Secretary Elsa Kelly. Foreign Minister Dante Caputo was not present because he is ill.

PRESIDENT WARNS COB LEADERS OF POSSIBLE COUP

PY300005 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2027 GMT 29 May 84

[Excerpts] La Paz, 29 May (TELAM) -- President Hernan Siles Zuazo has warned the leadership of the powerful COB [Bolivian Workers Federation] about "sabre rattling in military ranks."

Juan Lechin Oquendo, the top Bolivian labor leader, revealed that President Zuazo made that warning, adding that if it is so, the government should arrest the conspirators and submit them to justice. Lechin Oquendo also revealed other aspects of the meeting, saying that the president had offered a consensus agreement for reactivating production and neutralizing the resistance of workers against the government's economic measures.

As for the characteristics of the agreement, neither the COB nor the executive branch has made any comments. The dialogue is in recess until tomorrow to give both sides time to analyze the points which had been discussed.

Despite the lack of information, it has been learned from labor sources that no agreements to solve the problems of stoppages, strikes, and threats of an indefinite general strike have been reached in the first attempt.

VICE PRESIDENT CALLS FOR 5-YEAR DEBT GRACE

PY300120 Paris AFP in Spanish 2345 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] La Paz, 29 May (AFP) -- Vice President and MIR [Revolutionary Movement of the Left] leader Jaime Paz Zamora today asked for a national agreement to make it possible for Bolivia to have a 4-year moratorium on the payment of its foreign debt. The request was presented to the Congressional Commission, which functions while Congress is in recess, and it is intended, as Paz Zamora said, to form a solid internal front so that negotiations with international creditors can be tackled.

Paz Zamora contended that an exceptional moratorium of 4 years is not asking too much, considering that upper Peru, which is today Bolivia, granted Europe four centuries of exceptional treatment for exploiting the Potosi silver mines. This, he added, without forgetting Bolivia's contribution to the Western democracies during World War II. He then said that the small Bolivian foreign debt of some $5 billion will not cause any bank or financial institution to go baakrupt, but repaying it now will cause the destruction of the democratic system.

The vice president proposed that his initiative be discussed by Congress, the political parties, the Armed Forces, the Bolivian Workers Federation (COB), the peasants, and, obviously, the executive branch. Paz Zamora's proposal differs from the position of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, who wants to fulfill the foreign debt commitments without delay.

5,500 WORKERS FASTING THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

PY291440 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 May 84

[Excerpt] In an interview with Panamericana, COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] leader Victor Lima stated that in keeping with COB instructions, he inspected the labor centers at which hunger strikes are being held and that the conclusions drawn from his inspection are truly alarming.

Lima said that at present there are 50 groups of people fasting at various labor headquarters throughout La Paz. He added that there are approximately 1,500 workers fasting in La Paz, but that this number will increase as more and more people join fast groups to support COB leaders. He said that a national survey shows that there are now 5,500 people fasting throughout the country.

Victor Lima said that more and more people will join the hunger strikes as time goes by, and that other measures may be implemented if the COB-government meeting fails.

DISAPPEARANCE OF CHE GUEVARA'S DIARIES CONFIRMED

PY281420 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] The disapperance of the diaries of Ernesto "Che" Guevara has been confirmed. The report, published by the newspaper HOY yesterday, has caused surprise in all sectors and great concern among Armed Forces members, particularly among those who took part in the antiguerrilla war in southeastern Bolivia, which ended with the death of Ernesto Guevara in La Higuera in 1967.

HOY reported that the first holder of the diaries was General (Federico Arana Serruno), who was the security chief of the 2d Department, where the inventoried diaries were kept under custody in a safe. It was reported that (Arana Serruro) was in charge of the safekeeping of the diaries for 2 years. Having left the Armed Forces, Gen (Arana Serruno) now lives in La Paz.

BRIEFS

GAS SALES TO BRAZIL -- La Paz, 26 May (AFP) -- It was reported in La Paz today that starting in June the Deposits (YPFB) will export 500 tons of liquified gas to Brazil. It was explained that the contract wil be for 2 years and that the prices will be adjusted quarterly in accordance with the behavior of the international market. [Excerpts] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1547 GMT 26 May 84 PY]

GOVERNMENT SELLS ROCKET LAUNCHERS, COMBAT PLANES

Rocket Launchers to Iraq

WA301030 Rome IPS in English 26 May 84

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, May 26 (IPS) -- The Brazilian Avibras Company, which specializes in sophisticated weapons, has sold six "Astro" multiple rocker launchers to Iraq for use in the war against Iran, the Brazilian daily JORNAL DO BRASIL reported today.

The report cited as sources "specialists in exports of defense equipment" who said they supervised the loading of the first exports and transport from Avibras, located in San Jose Dos Campos, 62 miles from Sao Paulo, to Puerto De Santos.

The Astros can simultaneously launch up to 32 rockets with a range of 20-40 miles, according to Avibras technicians.

The Iraqis also bought nine special trucks, one with siting equipment, four with launchers and four others to carry ammunition, according to the report.

The total cost is reportedly about $10 million per unit. Production began last year, and negotiations with the Baghdad government started when the Astros were exhibited at an aeronatics fair in Le Bourget, France.

According to JORNAL DO BRASIL, several other Middle Eastern and Latin American nations have already bought Astros.

Brazil's arms sales to countries now in either domestic or international conflicts have received wide press coverage here recently.

The daily O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO reported this week that the Brazilian aeronautics company Embraer, which operates under the Aeronautics Ministry, exported eight "Tucano" planes to Honduras.

Military and diplomatic spokespersons denied that the Tucano is a combat plane, explaining that it can be used to train pilots.

If the importer country chooses to use it in combat, that is not Brazil's affair, according to those officials.

But the Brazilian press finds that position contradictory to Brazil's professed foreign policy, since Brazilian diplomats have repeatedly maintained that Brazil does not sell arms to countries at war or facing imminent conflict.

Iraq is one of Brazil's largest defense material customers. In addition to providing much of the oil supplies of the state oil company, Petrobras, Baghdad buys a considerable amount of Brazilian construction products.

Iran no longer sells oil to Brazil, but is seen as a potential market for Brazilian industrial exports.

Tucano Planes To Honduras

PY251743 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 May 84 p 5

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Excerpts] Brazil has sold to the Honduran Government eight Tucano T-27 planes, combat guerrilla version, together with support material and undertaken the training of pilots and mechanics.

The first four units have already been delivered: Last Friday, jungle camouflage painted, the squadron flew to Tegucigalpa accompanied by an Electra transport of the Honduran Air Transport Command. The second group of aircraft will be delivered in the next few days by Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] in Sao Jose dos Campos. The contract, worth $10 million, will be financed by the United States through a special credit line earmarked for Central America.

The sale of the Tucano airplanes is considered as a "classified matter" by Embraer, which hardly admits having made the transaction. Although the four planes have been flying daily over the factory during the last few weeks, their existence has been denied. During their flight to Honduras, the planes made a stopover at Boa Vista, Roraima Territory, where they were photographed by O ESTADO and O JORNAL DA TARDE, in the security sector of the international airport.

According to a high-placed source at the Aeronautics Ministry, the secrecy was imposed by means of a contract clause requested by the buyers, but the secrecy also serves the interests of Brazilian diplomacy which does not want to have Brazil associated in any manner with the events of troubled Central America. To tell the truth, until now, the national military industry has been instructed by the Foreign Ministry to keep out of the "hot" region, with the exception of Panama.

The Tucano T-27 is a powerful ground attack and tactical support plane for antiguerrilla warfare, capable of carrying 3,030 kilograms of rockets, bombs, and missiles, in addition to special machinegun pods under the wings. All this equipment is basically manufactured in Brazil, according to specifications that make the firing system compatible with weapons of the same standard used in the world.

Yesterday a Honduran diplomat in Tegucipalpa told O ESTADO and O JORNAL DA TARDE over the phone that part of the "sensitive material" may be bought from Brazilian suppliers, remarking that three of our UH-1HC helicopters used in anti-insurrection operations use rockets made in Sao Jose dos Campos, resold to us by our Panamanian friends in 1983. The same diplomat also said that the Brazilian aircraft will, to a certain extent, help the best Honduran pilots train for the use of some advanced airplanes that will soon be given by the United States in order to maintain the balance of power.

The Tucano T-27 will have a complex mission: To destroy guerrilla concentration points in the jungle. Until now, those operations were carried out in Honduras by vulnerable helicopters, or with old A-37 Dragonfly aircraft, two-seater jets designed by Cessna, of which the Honduran Government possesses 10.

Concerned Over Use

PY260335 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Brazilian Air Ministry officials are concerned over the reports that the T-27 Tucano planes sold to Honduras are being used in antiguerrilla operations. This concern was voiced by Air Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos and by Waldir de Vasconcelos, the chief of the Armed Forces Staff, in Brasilia today. The minister gave assurances that the Brazilian planes were built to serve training purposes and that the fact that Honduras uses them in antiguerrilla operations does not prove that they are fighters. Vasconcelos said that the T-27 is a training aircraft, pointing out that the AT 26 Xavante is a training as well as offensive aircraft, which is why we will not sell it to them.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WITHDRAWS, SEEKS ALLIANCE

PY261612 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 May 84 p 5

[Excerpts] At the end of a 1-hour private meeting with Vice President Aureliano Chaves yesterday morning, PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes announced that he is withdrawing his candidacy to succeed President Figueiredo and stated that he would not be an obstacle for a national understanding.

Guimaraes launched his candidacy 5 months ago during an interview he granted in York, where he spent Christmas. "Great difficultues call for grand gestures of political self-denial," Guimaraes remarked after he talked about his withdrawal.

"There is not a single Brazilian citizen who is not ready to relinquish any personal aspiration if he is convinced that it is in the nation's interest. Therefore, as far as I am concerned , as a party president, I must set the example. I will be very pleased to make my contribution so as to overcome this extremely serious difficulty that we are enduring," Guimaraes said.

Guimaraes hinted at the establishment of political alliances as a way to strengthen the opposition [presidential] candidate and he dismissed the idea of forming a new political party, an idea which was advocated by some PDS [Social Democratic Party] and PMDB sectors.

"It will not be I who will stop it, but I understand that the existing parties are offering democratic options to the country. What I know for sure is that there are more people who want to join the PMDB than people who want to leave it," Guimaraes added.

After Guimaraes' visit, Chaves met with Santa Catarina State Governor Espiridiao Amin. Upon leaving, Amin advocated that, for the country to reach an understanding, a constituent-assembly be convened in 1986, and that direct presidential elections be held now by adopting a parliamentary system of government.

"That could be a viable alternative. I do not have any recollection of a statement made by President Figueirado saying that he does not want direct elections now with a parliamentary system of government," Amin said.

PDS, PMDB PRESIDENTS MEET, DISCUSS PROPOSALS

PY251110 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 May 84 p 4

[Text] The desire to set up, during a new meeting, a timetable for the discussion and the vote on the proposal for the consitutional amendment was the only point of concurrence reached in the search for a political understanding by the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] president, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, and the PDS [Social Democratic Party] president, Senator Jose Sarney, during a meeting that was held behind closed doors and which lasted almost 2 hours. Guimaraes is to convene the PMDB Executive Board on a yet undetermined date in order to review the contents of the proposal for the constitutional amendment.

The meeting was held at Sarmey's office from 1930 to 2100. Sarney arrived late because he was received by Vice President Aureliano Chaves who urged him to do his best at achieving an understanding concerning the amendment drafted by the executive branch.

Sarney told the reporters: "Following up on our talks I had the pleasure of receiving the visit of Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes who informed me on the wish of the opposition parties, chiefly the PMDB's, to set up a timetable for fixing the deadlines for the discussion of the amendment and the time for it to be voted on in Congress. I told him of the wish of conducting broad negotiations concerning the proposal made by the president of the Republic and the wish of establishing in the first place the points upon which we agree and then the points upon which we disagree. After that review, we will examine the possibility of reaching an agreement over the disagreements. Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes said that he would convene the PMDB executive board in order to discuss the merits and the seriousness of the negotiation, after reasserting his stand regarding his advocacy of direct elections. [quotation marks as published]

Guimaraes reported that he also insisted on the proposal of calling a constituent assembly in 1986 and Sarney admitted that this issue may be discussed during the negotiations.

Guimaraes, trying to be cordial, sought to attach significance to the meeting: "An important point in our talks was to set the time for discussing the matter at the mixed commission and at the plenary session due to the congressional recess in July. As a matter of fact, I believe that there is no point in having a recess if we could resolve this matter immediately."

Guimaraes tried to allay the concerns of reporters because of the meager results of the meeting by stating: "We will talk a lot yet. Such a complicated matter could not be resolved in just one meeting. We are ready for successive talks, not only with the PDS, but with other sectors of society."

NEVES DENIES WILL RUN FOR PRESIDENT

PY281852 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1555 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Governor Tancredo Neves has again denied that he will run for president. He said that PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] President Ulysses Guimaraes is the only appropriate opposition candidate. Neves added that he does not want support for his candidacy because there is no such candidacy.

PRESIDENT INAUGURATES ADVISORY COUNCIL

PY251702 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpts] Upon inaugurating the Council for Social and Economic Affairs [Consejo Economico y Social] President Pinochet stated that he will soon submit for consideration some important issues to this new body. During the inauguration ceremony held at the Diego Portales building, the president stated that the government is determined to grant the country a renewed and efficient democratic institutionalization that will involve the most capable men in the country.

Referring to the Council for Social and Economic Affairs, the chief of state said that this advisory body will represent a forum where businessmen, workers, experts, and government representatives will be able to voice their opinion, exchange ideas and knowledge, and voice concern over matters on which they are familiar. This information will be submitted to the president at his request. The president pointed out that he will soon submit for the council's consideration issues regarding the socioeconomic field.

MINISTRY CLOSES ARGENTINE PLANE INCIDENT

PY300240 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 May 84

[Text] In a letter that he addressed today to Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle asserted that his country's government "deeply" laments that an Argentine commercial plan was forced to land in Antofagasta last Friday.

The Argentine Government itself yesterday acknowledged that the plane had not been authorized to enter Chilean airspace and the Foreign Ministry released a communique stating that the incident "was over."

Following is the text of the letter -- sent via telex -- that Del Valle sent to Caputo:

"I have the honor of addressing Your Excellency regarding an Argentine Airlines passenger plane that entered Chilean territory on 25 May, 1984, while it was on its inaugural flight to Miami from Buenos Aires.

"As Your Excellency knows, this plane was invited to land so that it could be identified, in accordance with international law. The Chilean authorities based their action on the fact that neither the Argentine Airlines office in Santiago nor the Chilean Government knew that this flight was to take place.

"I wish to express to Your Excellency how much the Chilean Government regrets that this incident took place on Argentina's national day, a date that has a great historical meaning for the two countries. It also deeply laments that the measure that the Chilean authorities took, in accordance with its legal rights, affected an inaugural flight that included so many famous Argentine personalities, something that neither the Chilean Foreign Ministry nor the Antofagasta authorities knew about.

"I am quite sure that this action taken by Chile's aeronautical authorities will not in any way affect the excellent relations between our two countries, relations that this government considers to be above any of these unfortunate exigencies. It was a pleasure for me to read the Argentine Foreign Ministry's press release stating that this incident is now closed. This is also the Chilean Government's position.

"I send Your Excellency my personal and warmest regards.

"Jaime del Valle, Chilean Foreign Minister."

GOVERNMENT BANK AID PREVENTED BANKRUPTCIES

PY292155 Paris AFP in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 29 May (AFP) -- An official report released today in Santiago revealed that the Chilean military government delivered $4,880,000 to the national banks during the past 18 months to prevent the collapse of the financial system. This amount represents 20 percent of the country's gross domestic product and surpasses the total value of the annual exports.

Half of these resources were given to five banks that were intervened by the military government when their shady deals left them on the brink of bankruptcy in January 1984. The crisis of the five, including the largest financial institution in the country, has triggered a shakedown in the credit network in the midst of a recessive crisis considered the worst of this half century.

The statistics report, prepared by the superintendency that controls bank activities, states that the amount of the state aid to these banks triples their capital and their reserves. According to the government plan, the resources given will be reached in 10 years.

JUDGE REFUSES TO TRY PINOCHET LAND PURCHASES

PY261523 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Judge Alberto Echavarria will not investigate the charges made by a group of lawyers who oppose the government regarding land purchases at El Melocoton by President Pinochet. In a report submitted to the Court of Appeals, the judge states that that court lacks jurisdiction to deal with the charges, since the latter has been made against the president of the country. The report further says that the court is also not competent to investigate the charge made against Mr Ramon Castro Ivanovich, since that charge should be made to the judge of the appropriate criminal court.

The letter is signed by Judge Alberto Echavarria Lorca and Secretary (Silvia Perez Pizarro).

Opposition Leaders File Suit

PY290333 Paris AFP in Spanish 2157 GMT 28 May 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, 28 May (AFP) -- A group of lawyers and leaders of the Chilean opposition today officially filed suit against President Augusto Pinochet, who is accused of purchasing several properties around his residence. Through this suit, 23 lawyers and former Pinochet ministers formally assumed the responsibility of prosecuting the president because last week a judge declined to investigate the first charge presented by the group.

Judge Alberto Echavarria, designated special powers by the Court of Appeals of Santiago, declared himself incompetent to hear the case as long as it refers to the president of the Republic, Don August Pinochet Urgarte.

Radical Leader Raps Action

PY292006 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 May 84

[Excerpt] The legal action filed against President Pinochet by a group of opposition attorneys has been labeled a [word indistinct] dirty trick. This sharp statement was made by the president of the Democratic Radical Party, Jaime (Torno). He said that it is beyond doubt that the [word indistinct] of this maneuver transcends the judicial sphere. (Torno) made it clear that this is clearly a political move. What is serious in this case is that these attorneys [words indistinct] in the apellate court on a matter that is irrelevant for the nation.

ARMED FPMR GROUP RAIDS AP, AFP OFFICES

PY300115 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0053 GMT 30 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 29 May (EFE) -- The Chilean branches of the internationai news agencies AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS (AFP) and ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) were raided today by armed groups which forced the editors to disseminate proclamations against Augusto Pinochet's military regime.

Three armed individuals raided the AFP branch at 2315 GMT and three others took over the AP bureau 10 minutes later. The raiders held the people in the agencies at gunpoint while they cut all telephone lines. According to what Humberto Zumaran, AFP agent, told EFE, the raiders claimed to be members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] and were carrying submachineguns. Upon departing, the raiders indicated that they were leaving a package with explosives inside. State security forces arrived afterward to investigate the event.

The Italian news agency ANSA was raided under similar circumstances 3 weeks ago.

Forces AFP To Air Communique

PY300140 Paris AFP in Spanish 2343 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 29 May (AFP) -- The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] today said that the government of General Augusto Pinochet is to blame for the serious economic problems affecting Chile, and at the same time made charges that any solution offered by the military regime is nothing but a farce.

In a communique made public tonight through the FRANCE-PRESS news agency while personnel of that agency were threatened with automatic guns, the FPMR, led by Commander Cesar, added that it denounces this farce by Pinochet as a vain attempt to gain time and to halt the increasing mobilization of the people who are determined to fight for their most essential right to bread and work. The FPMR reiterates its conviction that the only solution is the return to democracy and, as it is about to commemorate its first 6 months of existence and struggle, promises to continue struggling along with the people, with greater force all the time, until freedom is won. The communique was signed by the FPMR National Directorate.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2350 GMT on 29 May called back the above item saying: "We beg that our message No 257 be canceled. Excuse us."]

OPPOSITION LEADER LEAVES VENEZUELAN EMBASSY

PY260340 Paris AFP in Spanish 0158 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 25 May (AFP) -- Jorge Mario Quinzio, leader of the opposition Social Democratic Movement, today abandoned the Venezuelan Embassy of his own will. He stayed at the embassy as a guest for 1 week. I never intended to seek asylum, Quinzio said upon leaving the embassy. Quinzio added that he had made the decision to get away for a few days from the harassment to which he was subjected.

Quinzio's departure took place at a time when reports datelined Caracas stated that Venezuela had decided to admit him either as a person enjoying asylum or as a refugee.

The [Venezuelan] Charge d'Affaires Oswaldo Gamboa stated that Quinzio [words indistinct] that he was harassed. During a telephone talk with Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle, Gamboa said that Quinzio signed a document before witnesses and a notary public relieving the Venezuelan Embassy from all responsibility for his security.

Quinzio arrived at the Venezuelan Embassy on Friday after plainclothesmen tried to raid his home, his attorneys stated in a writ presented to Santiago's Appellate Court. However, Foreign Minister Del Valle said that there was no warrant of arrest or for raiding Quinzio's home and therefore the latter decided to leave his refuge.

7 BOMBS CAUSE DAMAGE IN SANTIAGO; NO INJURIES

PY251625 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] It has been established that seven explosive devices were planted in various parts of this capital by subversive elements last night and shortly after midnight. According to the Carabineros report, the explosions caused serious damage but no casualties.

The report points out that one of the bombs exploded at 0023 at 4473 Salvador Gutierrez Street, damaging a street lamp post.

The second bomb, planted on the corner of Nataniel and Eyzaguirre Streets where a CEMA-Chile [Mothers Center] branch is located, exploded at 2300. This explosion caused serious damage to the CEMA-Chile building, including the shattering of its windows.

The windows of the internal revenue office building were also shattered as a result of the explosion of a bomb at 2302 planted on the corner of Chacabuco and Romero Streets. Another bomb exploded at 2313 at 790 Arauco Street where the windows of the social security branch were also destroyed.

A sleeper car of the Southern Rail Line was destroyed by a bomb planted by terrorists that exploded at 0016; however, train service was not interrupted. The damage caused by a bomb that exploded at 2340 on Costanera Sur is still being evaluated.

At about 0000 another lamp post was destroyed by a bomb planted on the corner of (Victoria Sambrano) and (Los Libertadores) Streets.

BETANCUR CALLS FOR PEACE IN NATIONAL ADDRESS

PA292100 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 28 May 84 pp 1, 16

[Speech delivered by Colombian President Belisario Betancur via national network to the nation, in Bogota, on 27 May]

[Text] Fellow citizens:

We are a few hours away from an important event for our dear homeland and for all Colombians. Tonight Colombia will choose a path that will take us to our innermost being, because it is linked to peace, to a quiet peace, as someone once said. Therefore, allow me to say a few words about the significance and the enforcement of that much sought peace; about the cease-fire which will start at midnight today between the Armed Forces of a legitimately created government and the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia]; and the conversations that formally started yesterday between members of the Peace Commission, representatives of Liberalism and Conservatism, and the directorates of the M-19 [19 April Movement] and EPL [Popular Liberation Army].

Zero Hour for the Cease-Fire

Our desire for peace is a beautiful and noble ideal, but it is a fragile, vulnerable idea that constantly threatens to become a chimera, a monster that devours our hope. Therefore, we must watch our idea so that it becomes the truth. This alluring job is now in front of us; this work must become the sum of all our individual efforts.

Thus, we must learn to love this peace; above all, we must learn to create -- almost pamper -- it, and to maintain a realistic attitude toward the obstacles we will find in our path -- due to the lack of faith, caution, or opposition from others. Peace does not come easily; it is not achieved without sacrifice; it does not appear instantaneously just because we say so.

At 0000 on 28 May 1984, we will start the cease-fire of an absurd struggle which has prevailed for more than 30 years. We could go back even further and refer to other problems experienced by our Armed Forces -- which have suffered this tremendous situation so much and for so long.

Peace, the Name of Justice

What we start tonight is almost a full peace, but it will not be a complete peace because we will start a cease-fire; because we are still negotiating -- although with excellent possibilities -- agreements with other armed groups; and because, above all, if social injustices continue to prevail we will not have the "peace on earth and good will to men" which is preached in the Scriptures. We have always known that justice has a name: peace.

The road to peace and justice is long and difficult. We must equip ourselves with clear heads, patience, and understanding before taking this road. You will recall that after many months of meetings, thanks to the congress' patriotism, and thanks to the people's overwhelming support, an amnesty law was signed on November 1982 -- 18 months ago. Then there was the meeting in Madrid, in October 1983, between the president and the M-19, after which the formal Peace Commission-FARC negotiations began.

All this time had to pass -- sometimes creating impatience, skepticism, and even the anger of many -- before we achieved this cease-fire and a formal dialogue with other armed rebel groups.

The Doors to Peace

We have yet to travel a long way; when I approved the amnesty law I told my fellow citizens that we were opening the door to peace. Today we open another door -- and we will open many others: dialogue, solutions to social injustices, understanding. Likewise, we shall remain vigilant so pledges are fufilled, without unloyal attitudes or misunderstandings. And we shall always protect our society.

I am well aware of the vast task ahead. The nation has received, in its innermost being and within a context that cannot be misunderstood, the blow of a bloody challenge -- an anguished, prolonged spasm of a criminal situation that reached its most critical phase with the horrendous murder of our justice minister. Our country is no longer the same one we had some days ago. It has changed not only with this treacherous blow to our government's structures, but mainly with the awakening of the people's awareness and conscience -- which is what eventually determines the course of our history. It seemed as if the Colombian peoples' dormant conscience awoke all of a sudden, upon hearing the criminal shots.

We have seen how the clearest signs of vitality have displayed their presence in our social organization. The political parties, as ever-present forces in the entire process of our civilian life, the business class, with its unswerving and persistent faith in Colombia; the labor organizations with their exemplary nationalistic vision; the church, with its unbeatable moral authority; and naturally, the majesty of our armed institution in its serene confrontation of the dangers in a homeland that is desirous of true peace.

In the face of the cohesion of the national soul, the government has given a response whose intensity and continuity are a natural result of that collective will. We will head in that direction without excesses but without giving up our goals, bravely correcting our human failings, restlessly searching for the best balance between the ideal and the possible; in any event, giving priority to anything that helps reconcile the country with itself and with its essential values. We want survival to be a good business for all, except for those who want to destroy our own national identity.

Peace Is a Consensus

I said that we have opened several doors, but we need to open several more, especially that of all aspects of justice -- for instance, the economic and social aspects. A great national accord is being prepared in connection with this, expressed in the talks currently underway between the executive branch and the directorates of the various parties and trade unions, most importantly, with the congressional directorates. Fundamental bills intended to improve the lives of the Colombian people will be submitted to congress. And the government, from its legal orbit, will continue to promote its programs and decisions, taking into consideration the unprotected, the long-suffering working class, our long-suffering middle class, in short, those who do not want our democracy to be merely something on paper but an effective guarantee for improving the quality of their existence.

Peace, therefore, is not a problem of an exclusively military nature and scope, because it is not a matter of implementing the "pax Romana" of ancient times.

True peace is a consensus; it is the expression of the general will; in order for it to be effective, dogmatism, arrogance, and misunderstanding must be cast aside, and the way must be made for generosity and for the idea that nobody can claim to be entirely right, because the neighbor he does not agree with is partly right, too.

The Stable Peace

Because it is aware of this, the government has said that we must get used to normalcy, to not living up in the air, to not living on the verge of disaster while deceiving ourselves with states of emergency or the state of siege. We must get used to living under ordinary laws, under everyday laws. A stable truth entails normalcy with all its risks. With such an obvious argument, we have said that the state of siege is an absolutely transitory situation. This is established in the Constitution, which is our guideline. Not only under agreement, but because it believes in this, the government will lift the state of siege once the minimal conditions for the citizens' security reappear, and to the extent that the drugs currently destroying our society are eliminated in each zone.

I have explained this because the special legal system was established as a means to protect the community, not the government, which does not need it because its stability has at no time been threatened, despite the terrible blows that have been dealt to it, such as the killing of Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

Example, Lesson, and Purpose

Let us regard the important developments that must begin to be fulfilled tonight as an example, a lesson, a purpose. The government must be patient; it cannot be swayed by elemental emotions. It can, however, be prudently optimistic, because it analyzes the situation and sees that there is a general desire to achieve national salvation. It can also expect the citizens and the community to practice everything that leads to the consolidation of peace, which is the groundwork for the greatness of the nation and the well-deserved well-being of the Colombian people.

As Colombians, let us think about peace, let us cultivate peace; as Christians, let us pray for peace in the certainty that God hears our prayers; as human and rational beings, let us work for peace, let us strive to achieve peace, let us make peace both an idea and a practice, so that the institutions that we have given ourselves and which give shape to Colombia can reflect that general reality, which is perhaps incomplete, but is always preserved and improved on.

Peace is our present and our future. Let us plant it in our souls, so it bears fruits of hope. In the deepest recesses of my being that is the desire I harbor. And the knowledge that we Colombians will be working so that the desired peace can flourish on behalf of everyone will be my best reward. May God illuminate and help us.

NATION HOPES CEASE-FIRE WILL BRING PEACE

PA291913 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 28 May 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Work for Peace"]

[Text] Today the Colombian people once again confirmed their earnest desire to find peace. It is a deep-rooted feeling, strengthened by our martyrs of recent years and manifested at all times and in many ways.

This is why all of the efforts to secure peace are received with open arms and a high degree of trust. Whenever the people are asked to express their feelings, they do so enthusiastically, without reticence.

People are always willing to believe that what is being offered is what they want most. Thus, all objections fade away, and optimism defeats all negative indications. Obvious difficulties seem smaller and the determination to achieve the objective becomes an extra engine, driving toward the goal. Today, the country wants peace. It needs peace urgently, and it is offering its contribution to the achievement of it.

Unfortunately, the root of a problem does not disappear at the utterance of magical words, and unilateral good will is not enough. A complex web of domestic and international interests has been woven around the violence. This web must be carefully unraveled if it is not to destroy the values developed throughout our history, from the time of the Spanish conquest to the time when we became a free and democratic nation, a status that we proudly uphold. It would be illogical to undermine those values to achieve a purely temporary advantage. It has never been good policy to sacrifice permanent principles in an effort to obtain the temporary cessation of a situation that causes anguish.

This difficult task calls for an almost unlimited supply of serenity and firmness. The people can sense its complex nature, and have offered their support to the government that took on the mission of carrying it through.

The risks are high and well known, but this should not discourage us or make us give up. On the contrary, it demands a greater effort and the adoption of the greatest precautions to ensure that each step is taken only after serious consideration. The successes must be judged fairly and the setbacks must not arouse bitter or defeatist reactions. These are the possibilities that we must face in our attempt to regain peace, and they can be faced as long as the essential foundations of our social system remain unharmed.

When the president of the Republic announced the agreement between the Peace Commission and the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] he rightly said that new rays of hope were shining through. This is how his fellow countrymen understood it, and they will protect that hope with devotion. In critical situations like those affecting us now, the cooperation of all people of good will is needed to overcome the danger. It would be unpardonable for honest and well-thinking people to become part of the problem instead of offering help to find solutions.

The days before the "cease-fire" was declared were bad times. The coming days will offer even greater danger. If the raids and attacks are repeated, they will affect the people's opinion of the process that has just begun. This is well known to the leaders of the guerrilla organization that signed the truce, as well as to the other movements. Each new act of violence would increase the anxiety still felt by the people until that anxiety would become a vast national frustration.

The FARC must understand that the success of the agreements rests on their conduct, and the other groups must understand that if they hope to adhere to these agreements or to sign similar ones, they cannot continue to engage in kidnappings, extortion, and terrorist actions.

The country and the government have acted with generosity. The people hope to find peace, and will not permit their feelings to be mocked or their hopes to be killed.

BOMB EXPLODES NEAR GOVERNMENT PALACE IN QUITO

PA300144 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 May 84

[Excerpt] The "Alfaro Vive, Carajo" group of activists detonated a propaganda bomb containing pamphlets today at the entrance to the Metropolitan Cathedral, in front of the Government Palace. The bomb was placed in a garbage can by two young women who quickly fled the scene.

The pamphlets contained an unusual accusation, calling President Ronald Reagan, the CIA and the Pentagon, as well as President Osvaldo Hurtado's Christian Democratic Government, the oligarchy and the [words indistinct] perpetrators, of accomplices in and accessories to the death of former President Jaime Roldos.

The bomb did not cause any casualties or property damage, but it alarmed citizens who were passing through that downtown section at midday today.

DELEGATION APPOINTED TO DUARTE INAUGURATION

PA291415 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1920 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Quito, 28 May (EFE) -- Ecuadoran Government Minister Vladimiro Alvarez will represent President Osvaldo Hurtado at the inauguration of new Salvadoran President Napoleon Duarte, it was reported in Quito today.

The Ecuadoran president also appointed Ramiro Rivera, national secretary of public information, and Wilfrido Lucero, president of the Christian Democratic Party in Ecuador, as members of the delegation.

The Ecuadoran delegation will travel to San Salvador on 30 May and will return on 3 June, the Government Palace announced.

President Hurtado, who like Duarte is a Christian Democrat, declined the invitation to attend the ceremony, because he is preparing his reports and carrying out his last obligations before turning his office over to his successor on 10 August.

FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS ARGENTINE 'POSITION'

PA260059 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 May 84

[By Carlos Medina]

[Text] In view of international dispatches from Lima citing reports published in local newspapers that indicated Major General Teodoro Guillermo Waldner, Argentine Air Force chief of staff, expressed his support for Peru's position on the territorial conflict with Ecuador, the Foreign Ministry's General Information Office has announced that it called the Argentine ambassador today to tell him of the Foreign Ministry's dissatisfaction with this statement, though it realizes that the military leader in question is not an official spokesman on matters of international policy.

The Foreign Ministry's General Information Office also noted that the Ecuadoran Government has always appreciated the Argentine Government's position in favor of peaceful and friendly solutions to existing problems between American countries, as well as its significant and constant contributions to better understanding among the peoples of our continent. The Foreign Ministry also spoke on behalf of Ecuador's territorial rights, which are well known to the Argentine Government, as they are laid down in the 3 December 1982 joint declaration in which Argentina expresses the desire to sincerely contribute to a peaceful solution to Ecuador's territorial conflict with Peru.

ANTIDRUG OPERATION AIMS TO STOP COLOMBIANS

PA251948 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 May 84

[Interview with Colonel (Gustavo Vinueza), director general of immigration, by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given -- recorded, broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Vinueza] ...Based on an operation carried out by the National Police and the Armed Forces, we feel that most drug traffickers fleeing from Colombia after the assassination of the Colombian justice minister have not entered Ecuador. In reference to the first part of your question, the National Directorate of Immigration, in coordination and collaboration with other agencies, has taken several measures to prevent the entrance of these fugitive drug traffickers. One of these measures is the integration of the agencies working on this operation, and another is more intensive patrolling of the ports of entry, in particular on the border with Colombia. All immigration officials have been put on alert to detect the presence of fugitive drug traffickers, since it must be understood that they could have entered the country clandestinely, if at all, at different sites that are not under surveillance by police or immigration officials. Therefore, as I have already stated, the immigration personnel are on alert. All the staff members of the provincial immigration stations, including those in the central provinces, are working to locate any Colombian drug traffickers who may have entered the country.

[Reporter] Colonel, has there been an increase in personnel for this purpose?

[Vinueza] No. The work has just become more intensive. Coordination with different National Police agencies does not mean an increase in personnel, but rather more coordinated and efficient efforts. Of course, there are more people assigned to the case. For example, there are 100 policemen working for immigration. In addition, we have personnel from the following services: urban, traffic, and criminal investigations with Interpol. This does not mean that there are more immigration personnel.

PRESIDENT BELAUNDE TO VISIT BRAZIL IN JUNE

PY290355 Paris AFP in Spanish 0252 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Lima, 29 May (AFP) -- Tonight the Peruvian Congress approved the trip of President Fernando Belaunde Terry to Brazil in the second half of June. The authorization was unanimously approved during a joint session of Congress. Belaunde was officially invited to visit Brazil by President Joao Baptista Figueiredo.

REGIONAL AIR ASSOCIATION OFFERS SUPPORT IN AIR WAR

PY292140 Paris AFP in Spanish 1751 GMT 29 May 84

[Excerpts] Lima, 29 May (AFP) -- The Latin American Air Transportation Association, comprising 14 regional companies, today renewed its support for Peru in its air war against the United States, which started on 21 May. The Latin American Air Transport Association, which has supported Peru from the beginning, sent its deputy president, Luis Frias, and adviser Juan Noriega, to Lima. Both met with the authorities. Today they left for Bogota, saying that Aeronaves de Mexico will support its Peruvian colleagues. They said that they will ask Avianca and the State Department to negotiate the reopening of the dialogue with Peru, pointing out that if the present situation continues, the association will take stronger measures.

POLICE DRAGNET GETS RESULTS IN AMAZON REGION

PY291455 Paris AFP in Spanish 1554 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Lima, 28 May (AFP) -- During the "Bronco" police dragnet operation along the Huallaga River in the Peruvian Amazon region, 25 subversive centers were dismantled, 28 clandestine airports destroyed, 47 drug traffickers and terrorists arrested, and weapons, 308 kg of cocaine base, and tons of material to produce cocaine were seized.

Interior Minister Luis Percovich, who made this disclosure last night at Congress, added that approximately 100 policemen also destroyed three subversive camps and 45 coca maceration pits. For the past 3 weeks, police have been carrying out an operation against drug traffickers and terrorists, including Colombians.

Percovich, who did not reveal whether there have been any casualties, added that police seized 3,580 kg of green coca leaves, 150 bags of lime, 835 gallons of kerosene, 495 gallons of sulphuric acid, a large number of vehicles, communist flags, and subversive propaganda. After pointing out that an effective way to fight drug traffickers and terrorists would be to control the airspace, even by means of a radar system, to detect the clandestine entry of planes, the minister said that Peru would have to request cooperation from other countries, as radar is very expensive.

It has also been reported that Peruvian police posts along the border with Colombia are being reinforced to prevent attacks by drug traffickers and terrorists.

SENATE WANTS INVESTIGATION OF CONTRACT WITH USSR

PY292202 Paris AFP in Spanish 1747 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Lina, 29 May (AFP) -- The Peruvian Senate last night charged the Office of the Attorney General with beginning an investigation into the activities of the Ministry of Fisheries, including a contract signed on 19 April 1984 with the Soviet Union. A debate that has been going on for several days on this ministry ended with this agreement, proposed by government Senator Javier Alva. Minister Ismael Venevides, who is the object of the criticism, admitted that the agreement with the Soviet Union is detrimental to Peru.

The contract, signed here by Soviet Foreign Trade Deputy Minister Aleksey Manzhulo, has renewed another that had existed before, and which had been terminated by another minister of the sector. According to the senators, the new contract is worse than the previous one because it even eliminates the Peruvian workers from the Soviet fishing boats.

According to the Chamber of Deputies, the Office of the Attorney General must also investigate the sale of thousands of tons of fish to the FRG at $100 a ton, that is, at prices lower than those paid in the market at the moment of the transaction. The Office of the Attorney General will have to see whether sky-high salaries are paid to officials of that Ministry and of state enterprises of that sector. It must, therefore, carry out an investigation of these events to see whether court action is warranted.

SHINING PATH CLASHES WITH ARMY IN AYACUCHO

PY251653 Paris AFP in Spanish 1507 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Lima, 25 May (AFP) -- Police sources in Lima today reported that last Wednesday a Shining Path extremist group attacked the police command quarters in Cerro de Pasco and placed dynamite charges on the building of the local court in San Miguel, La Mar Province of Ayacucho Department

A heavily armed group of 12 subversives hurled dynamite against the building of the 28th police command quarters in Cerro de Pasco, in the country's central region, and then ran away after exchanging fire with policemen. The attack caused damage and the attachers carried away an undetermined number of wounded comrades.

The building of the local court of San Miguel, 75 km northeast of Ayacucho, was blown up with dynamite for the second time. On 5 September last year the building was the target of a similar attack. The police reported damage, but no victims.

15 Terrorists Die

PY290335 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2354 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Lima, 28 May (EFE) -- About 15 members of the Shining Path terrorist organization were killed in a clash with an Army unit in Ayacucho.

The newspaper LA REPUBLICA today said that the clash took place on Sunday at about kilometer 48 on the Ayacucho-Picos road, adding that three soldiers were wounded. The newspaper's report says that the Atmy seized from the terrorists pistols, submachine-guns, carbines, explosives, and political propaganda material.

GENERAL MEDINA DESIGNATED NEW ARMY COMMANDER

PY290154 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 May 84

[Excerpts] General Hugo Medina has just been designated the new commander of the Uruguayan Army, a post which he will hold during a crucial period for the country's democratization. Medina, 54, a cavalry officer, will replace Lieutenant General Pedro Aranco, who will retire on 7 June upon reaching 60 years of age, the statutory limit to active service in the Armed Forces. General Medina is now chief of the 3d Army Division, which has jurisdiction over the entire northern region of the country and which is headquartered in Tacuarembo. Upon taking his new post, Medina will automatically be promoted to lieutenant general and will become a member of the commanders' junta, along with his Navy and Air Force peers, Vice Admiral Rodolfo Invidio and Lieutenant General Manuel Buadas, respectively. Medina was unanimously designated by the 16-member junta of Army generals in active service.

After his designation, Gen Medina visited President General Gregorio Alvarez, retired. In remarks to the press at Government House, Gen Medina said:

[Begin Medina recording] At this time I feel a deep personal satisfaction, and I am aware of great responsibility inherent to the conduct of the Army during this period. I hope to be able to discharge this responsibility without disappointing those who enstrusted me with this post. [end recording]

Asked about the political period the country is experiencing, Medina stated:

[Begin Medina recording] As a simple citizen, I hope elections will be held so that the citizenry may fulfill their aspiration of choosing a democratic government. As the future commander in chief of the Army, I must think about the Army will come out of this situation, and this is my greatest concern. My wishes are that the Army acquits itself well, that the country goes to elections peacefully, that there is prior and future agreement, that the country is democratically conducted on a reasonable basis so that we can feel sure in our functions and the nation can feel sure of itself. [end recording]

ARMY OFFICERS COURT-MARTIALED IN ROSLIK CASE

PY300155 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 May 84

[Excerpts] Regarding the death of Dr Roslik, two Army officers have been court-martialed and are currently in prison. One of the officers was court-martialed for deliberate, premeditated murder, while the other officer was charged with service irregularities. It has also been reported that another three persons who were arrested together with Dr Roslik have been brought to trial charged with cooperation and association with subversion.

Colonel Federico Silva Ledesma, president of the Supreme Military Court, stated during a press conference:

[Begin Silva recording] A person was detained and due to the detention of this person -- who had previously fled to Brazil -- another operation was carried out which resulted in one of these cases, in the death of Dr Roslik. The military judge hearing the case asked for all the technical reports and also authorized a second autopsy. [end recording]

Later he gave more details regarding the procedures that were adopted by our military courts: [Begin Silva recording] Thus, in view of the outcome of this operation which started in 1980 with the seeking of a person at large, there occurred the death of Dr Roslik in the military garrison, for which two officers have been court-martialed. [end recording]

FERREIRA ALDUNATE SPEAKS AT RALLY IN ARGENTINA

PY261527 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2348 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Concordia, 25 May (TELAM) -- Uruguayan political leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate tonight reasserted in Concordia that he will return to his fatherland, where he is wanted by the military justice, on 16 June, and said that he will relinquish his candidacy for president of the nation provided that the government reinstates the effectiveness of the 1967 Constitution, grants amnesty to political prisoners, and allows all political parties to act freely.

Speaking in the 25 de Mayo Square before a sizable number of Uruguayan citizens who traveled to Entre Rios Province [in Argentina] to listen to him, the seasoned politician reasserted that he will be arriving at Montevideo port on Saturday morning, 16 June.

"I am not going to [Montevideo] to place myself at anyone's disposal nor am I going there to be imprisoned," stated Ferreira Aldunate when he announced his decision to return [to his country]. "If they want to put me in jail that is up to them and not up to me. I am not going to clarify anything at all on any stand whatsoever because I have nothing to clarify," he said. "If I had anything to clarify I would do so before my people and not before those who are holding posts that nobody entrusted them with and which the people have repeatedly denied them," Ferreira Aldunate added.

Ferreira Aldunate asked himself during his speech what the people have to do with that so-called military justice, which is no justice and which is not even military; a justice which is exercised with the presumed authority of a government which in recent times does not even constitute a dictatorship since it acts brutally but does not govern.

Ferreira Aldunate made it clear that he and his supporters will not be hostages because for the adversary to count on hostages it will have to count on us because it is up to us to decide whether we will or will not be hostages. "No one is going to bargain on anything, no one will grant anything in exchange for what one is entitled to demand," Ferreira Aldunate said. "We will not give even a millimeter in our ideals because our objective is to join a large popular column," he added.

Ferreira Aldunate noted the presence of the Radical, Peronist, Socialist, and Intransigent brothers at the rally, brothers who are not coming under a party banner but as Argentines to cheer us on in our struggle for freedom. Ferreira Aldunate alluded to the presence of Brazilian, Nicaraguan, and Chilean flags. "Countries where the people are struggling for their freedom," he said.

Lastly, Ferreira Aldunate stated his approval to the proposals for unity voiced by the National Blanco and Colorado Parties, and by the Broad Front. He stated that those who do not want political unity in Uruguay are either criminals or accomplices of the military apparatus.

LUSINCHI CONGRATULATES PRESIDENTS-ELECT

PA260456 Paris AFP in Spanish 2336 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Caracas, 25 May (AFP) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today sent messages to Presidents-elect Leon Febres Cordero of Ecuador and Nicolas Ardito Barletta of Panama.

In his note to Febres Cordero, Lusinchi said that "the Ecuadoran people once again reaffirmed their democratic ideals" in the recent elections and expressed his desire "for the continuous progress of your nation."

Lusinchi also expressed his hope that the ties between Ecuador and Venezuela, "inspired by the Bolivarian spirit, will grow stronger during your presidential term."

In addition to being Andean Pact partners (together with Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru), Venezuela and Ecuador are also the only Latin American members of OPEC.

In his message to Panamanian President-elect Nicolas Ardito Barletta, President Lusinchi congratulated him "on the high and important responsibility of promoting the democratic process and social progress in that sister nation."

"We trust that during your presidential term, the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between Panama and Venezuela will become even closer, and our countries' participation in the efforts to secure peace and understanding in the region will be strengthened," the message reads.

Panama and Venezuela, together with Colombia and Mexico, are members of the Contadora Group, which is trying to bring peace to the convulsed Central American region.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO ATTEND DUARTE INAUGURATION

PA292308 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1931 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul will travel to El Salvador next Thursday to attend President-elect Napoleon Duarte's inauguration. The Venezuelan minister will lead the official delegation, which will consist of the chairmen of the congressional foreign policy commissions, the inspector general of the Armed Forces of Cooperation, and the Venezuelan ambassador to El Salvador.

Venezuela feels that the inaugural ceremony for the new Salvadoran head of state is of great importance to the peace process in Central America.

FINANCE MINISTER DISCUSSES ECONOMIC MEASURES

PA292256 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 May 84 p D 1

[Excerpts] We interviewed Finance Minister Manuel Azpurua at the private miniature bunker that he has had installed in the backyard at La Marquesena, his countryhouse in Sebucan. He noted that although the increase in the price of Venezuelan heavy crude oil will not mean a great deal of additional income, it is still encouraging for the country's economy.

[Azpurua] The cabinet had expected oil prices to drop in the first trimester, but, in fact, the price trend has been favorable.

The Venezuelan finance minister made an assessment of the new economic measures, on a Sunday, free of coat-and-tie formality. In his flannel shirt, he noted that all of the Latin American countries want the U.S. banks to reduce their interest rates, adding that each country renegotiates its foreign debt in accordance with its particular conditions.

[Fuguet] Has the government decided on a position on foreign interest rates? What will Venezuela seek?

[Aspurua] We have examined the effects of each additional half point. Venezuela has pointed out that a special solution for the debtor-countries' payment of interest is advisable and necessary.

The solution won't be easy, but there is awareness of the problem, for a continued increase in interest rates could result in a critical situation for the debtor countries. Right now, as part of our renegotiation proposal, we are conducting studies to determine what would be an acceptable level for our country. Our economic prospects indicate that 12 percent would be the highest acceptable rate, including the "spread" [in English].

The coordinator of the Economic and Financial Cabinet expects lower interest rates.

[Fuguet] Will the increase in interest rates affect government plans?

[Azpurua] So far, the 1.5 percent increase will affect some of our plans. It obviously has an effect on the resources that are available in both the public and private sectors given that credit service charges are higher.

Azpurua believes that those who think that there has been no progress made in the debt renegotiation process are wrong. He summarized the government's decisions and steps:

[Azpurua] As soon as the government was installed, it named a negotiator and a renegotiating advisory commission. The government has also eliminated various obstacles. A commission for the permanent record of private debt was created with decree No 61. Great efforts were made to remain current making interest payments on our foreign debt, resulting in a favorable atmosphere during our talks with the U.S. banks. Garcia Araujo, who participated in the previous government's negotiations, told us that he has seen a real change in the bankers' attitude.

The finance minister added that the 17.5 billion bolivares obtained in additional credit will cover not only budget shortages and the additional expense resulting from the parity of 7.5, which was established to cancel the interest on our public debt, but will also provide resources for several organizations so that they can fulfill their commitments.

[Azpurua] Now, those resources will be controlled directly by the Finance Ministry, to prevent them from being used for any purpose other than paying the interest on the debt.

The minister explained that as of this week, "urgent attention" will be given to the more rapid payment of the private sector's interest.

According to Azpurua, after this credit advance, the debt negotiator will be able to meet with the Banks Committee in the third week in June to begin discussing the terms, interest rates, and financial conditions for restructuring the debt.

[Fuguet] Why has the government taken so long to refinance?

[Azpurua] The process is complex; it requires definitions and analysis and certain aspects must be explained. Work is underway in the area of refinancing, to define what portion of the debt will be absorbed by the Republic, what will be left in the hands of the state-run enterprises, and what will be guaranteed by the Republic. Very serious work is underway, because refinancing is essential if confidence is to be reestablished and economic recovery is to be achieved. There is perfect coordination among the Finance Ministry, CORDIPLAN [Office of Coordination and Planning], the BCV [Central Bank of Venezuela], the negotiator, the Advisory Commission for the Refinancing, and the various public organizations.

[Fuguet] Minister, one of the hypotheses calls for a 10-year refinancing term with a 5-year grace period. Is this Venezuela's request of the banks?

[Azpurua] That is one of the possible scenarios. This does not mean, however, that no adjustment is possible. The country's debt and economy are manageable under those terms.

[Fuguet] Won't there be problems in requesting a new moratorium for August?

[Azpurua] A new moratorium is possible, and will in fact be easier to obtain because the problems posed by the delays in paying the interest will have been resolved and the terms of the refinancing will have been discussed. It is possible that in the next few weeks Venezuela's classification as a substandard country, which it held until March, may change. I talked to several bankers this week and they said that suitable measures are being taken.

[Fuguet] The banks want the foreign investors to be given incentives. What will the government do about this?

[Azpurua] Well, we have already received both General Motors and Ford. The Ford Company wants to invest 200 million bolivares in Valencia. They even want to export. Textile activity is picking up and job openings in that sector will increase toward the end of the year. In the areas of graphic arts and paper production, our plants are already working at full capacity. Our rubber factories are being reactivated. Our production of sorghum, cotton, and other products is positive. The subsidy provided to fertilizers is having its effect. We will encourage foreign investment in those areas in which Venezuela has no current capacity. We are examining the field and will review the foreign investments regulation, because it has certain deficiencies. In June, at a seminar that is currently being planned by the Finance Ministry and CORDIPLAN, we will hear the various sector's views, including that of the transnationals. The Venezuelan-American Chamber of Industry and Commerce has given us a study to review, but we want to be careful about this.

FIV PRESIDENT DISCUSSES DEBT, REFINANCING

PA300109 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 May 84 p C1

[The "Forum" column: Interview with Carlos Rafael Silva, president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund, FIV, by Alfredo Pena; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Pena] Our political leaders are accusing each other of plundering and ruining the country. What banking institution would be willing to give credit to a nation whose leaders publicly admit that corruption exists?

[Silva] I believe that Venezuela has wasted the generous resources derived from its oil industry. I am convinced that with the resources that we had, we could have made many important changes. Nevertheless, we have done some positive things, but the negative tends to be more visible than the positive.

[Pena] I must repeat: The country's political leaders are accusing each other of wasting thousands of millions of bolivares that belonged in the public treasury. How, then, will we impose our conditions for renegotiation?

[Silva] The international banks have contributed to our economic woes. Until recently, they were offering us all kinds of financial opportunities, while we enjoyed a bonanza. Today, they are pressing us to pay. There is no doubt that they must share in the responsibility.

[Pena] If you were a bank president, would you lend money to an institution that revealed publicly that it is an administrative disaster?

[Silva] As a banker, no, I would not. My performance in the financial activities in which I have participated bears this out. I think it is important to evaluate one's client and the risks involved before granting any credit. However, the banks should not be surprised by these situations. After all, the City of New York went bankrupt not too long ago.

Private Debt

[Pena] You have been superintendent of banks and the vice president of the BCV [Central Bank of Venezuela]. What do you have to say about the charges leveled by some politicians that the $14 billion claimed as private debt is a false figure?

[Silva] I never thought that the private debt was $14 billion. I always thought that $3 billion or $4 billion was more reasonable.

[Pena] This is what the BCV said.

[Silva] The BCV said so, and it was also mentioned in a report issued by an important U.S. bank that has invested in Venezuela.

[Pena] The Chase Manhattan?

[Silva] No.

[Pena] Which one?

[Silva] Morgan.

Renegotiation and Exchange Rate

[Pena] The opposition claims that when President Lusinchi was a candidate, he promised to simplify the money exchange system, but he has created anarchy in the system instead by introducing five different exchange rates.

[Silva] No. The number of products that fell under the 4.3 rate was reduced, while the 7.5 rate category was increased.

[Pena] Do you know of any country that has gone ahead with five different exchange rates?

[Silva] No, I don't. But I must remind you that the press insists on stressing the price of the dollar in the parallel market.

[Pena] They have to. It is the highest dollar exchange rate in the free money market.

[Silva] Yes, but this dollar exchange rate, which is over 15 bolivares, corresponds to a marginal market that accounts for only a very small portion of our foreign transactions. Most of these transactions are undertaken at the 4.3 and 7.5 rates.

[Pena] Both our debt negotiators and several ministers insist that the renegotiation is rolling along smoothly. Some of them have even said that "the banks have taken keenly to the package measures that the president announced." What the banks really said was that we are a substandard country.

[Silva] I have not participated in the refinancing negotiations for some time. I believe that the problem with Venezuela's public debt, particularly its foreign debt, is not so much the total amount owed but the terms of payment and the institutions that extended the loans. In 1983, unbelievably, some $13 billion of Venezuela's international obligations expired. Meanwhile, Venezuela's income from abroad, basically our oil income, amounted to approximately $14 billion. Practically all of our income from exports had to be used to pay our debt. It is generally said, in international circles, that a critical situation is one in which 20 percent of the income from exports is used to pay a debt.

[Pena] Some people believe that Venezuela should renegotiate with the rest of the Latin American countries, as a group.

[Silva] That idea has not gotten much support. Each country has a totally different debt situation. Venezuela is in a better position to honor its outstanding commitments than other Latin American countries. However, that puts us in a difficult position vis-a-vis our creditors. Banks collect from those who can pay.

[Pena] The opposition leaders, particularly those of COPEI, charge that President Lusinchi pledged during his political campaign to refinance the debt as soon as he assumed power, but hasn't done so. Why is it that we continue to ask for additional extensions on our debt?

[Silva] Our best opportunity to renegotiate the debt was in August 1981, when the government that was in power at that time obtained the Congress' approval to renegotiate it. At that time, we were a Triple A country in the eyes of the international financial system.

[Pena] That is in the past now. Let's talk about the present.

[Silva] You're right. We cannot keep blaming past administrations. However, despite the fact that the tactic of blaming all of our mistakes and problems on our predecessors has lost validity, the truth is that we found a great many problems, both here and internationally. Mexico and Argentina had arrived at a virtual standstill in their payments. Our debt involves more than 450 banks.

[Pena] Those factors were there during Lusinchi's presidential campaign. That is what the opposition holds against him: He promised immediate refinancing.

[Silva] I admit that some of those factors already existed. However, the program that should be set in motion when the Financing Law takes full effect is a step in the right direction.

[Pena] I believe that the IMF's report on Venezuela will be the key to how the banks will decide on Venezuela's debt renegotiation.

[Silva] Possibly. I was brought up on the ideas of the central bank. As a result, I believe that many of the faults attributed to the IMF are unfair. However, the IMF is much more tolerant toward larger countries than smaller ones. Just look at what is happening in the United States. Despite all of President Reagan's promises, that country has broken every debt and fiscal deficits record.

[Pena] Dr Barrios was telling me a few days ago that the financial world still believes that what the IMF says influences the international banks.

[Silva] Yes, the IMF is like the banks' consultant. When the IMF teams visit any country they obtain important information... the IMF's recommendations, particularly those related to imposing discipline and austerity, are implemented more forcefully in the smaller countries.

[Pena] What will the government do with the companies that report more than a billion bolivares in losses every year?

[Silva] I believe that it must thoroughly review its policy toward those firms. There are several problems: poor administration, politically-based clienteles, a lack of administrative continuity, the extended regulation of their fees, and other such problems. We must also realize that some of those companies render services that do not yield high profits and that they are not attractive to the private sector as a result. I believe that we are doomed to keeping a large chunk of corporations in government hands. There are historical foundations for this. All of the administrations have done it: Gomez, Perez Jimenez, and the democratic administrations.

[Pena] You don't think that they should be made private?

[Silva] Beyond making them private, I believe both public and private corporations must be made more efficient. Many of the state corporations were previously privately owned. We can cite several examples: BND [National Development Bank], Italian-Venezuelan, Maracaibo Commercial, Barquisimeto Regional Development, Western Discount, and Zulia Regional Development.

BRIEFS

EXTERNAL DEBT SERVICE RATES -- Due to a 0.5 percent increase in the U.S. interest rates, Venezuela will have to pay an additional $165 million to service its debt, since its public and private external debt is currently $33 billion. Venezuelan Finance Minister Manolo Azpurua Arreaza has expressed his concern over this new increase in U.S. interest rates. [Excerpt] [Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 9 May 84 PA]

DE LA MADRID SAYS NO CHANGES IN ECONOMIC POLICY

PA291635 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 26 May 84 pp 1-A, 3-A

[Report by Miguel Angel Ramirez]

[Excerpt] Stating that the increase in the interest rates by the international banks has been a "negative and discouraging element that has affected our economic reorganization program," President Miguel de la Madrid announced that the government will maintain the measures to control the increase in public expenses, monetary and financial measures, and measures to reduce the excessive increase of liquidity and to defend internal savings so as to halt and decrease inflation in Mexico. During a meeting with industrialists affiliated with the CONCAMIN [Confederation of Industrial Chambers], the president asked that in view of the current difficult moments, the country's sectors reduce conflicts and disagreements, replacing confrontation with dialogue, greater unity, and solidarity.

Regarding some businessmen's distrust about the clarity of the "rules of the game" in the economy, the president said that there are no real reasons for doubts about the nation's course. By constitutional and political mandate, the state is the director of the national economy, and in a mixed economy system private individuals have a broad field for development.

Stressing the need to continue strengthening confidence and mutual responsibilities, the Mexican president said that the federal government will continue to simultaneously attack the circumstantial and structural factors of the crisis and will take advantage of the current circumstances, in which signs of recovery are evident, to maintain and enourage procuction and employment.

Regarding the criticism from some sectors that democratic planning means increased state interventionism, Miguel de la Madrid said such criticism is unjustified because it only reflects idoelogical throwbacks that have already been passed.

PARTIES GIVE QUALIFIED SUPPORT TO DEBT STAND

PA291550 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 23 May 84 p 4

[Report by Roberto Vizcaino and Ubaldo Diaz]

[Excerpts] The Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM), the Popular Socialist Party (PPS), and the Mexican Workers Party (PMT) yesterday agreed that Mexico's participation in the debtors'front -- which is also made up of Brazil, Colombia, and Argentina -- is a rectifying step and possibly the only way to revise the foreign debts, which would be impossible to pay any other way. However, the PSUM and PMT expressed some "reservations," because, they warned, there are sectors within the economic cabinet and government of Miguel de la Madrid that have supported the paths imposed or suggested by the IMF, which have only caused economic and social tensions affecting the masses.

Through federal Deputy Cuauhtemoc Amezcua, the PPS demanded the removal of the economic cabinet made up of Finance Secretary Jesus Silva-Herzog, Commerce Secretary Hector Hernandez, Planning and Budget Secretary Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and the directors of the Bank of Mexico and the National Finance Company. Amezcua charged that none of them have changed statements and actions which are contradictory to what President Miguel de la Madrid said at the U.S. Congress.

Mexico's participation in this front was viewed by the PMT as rectification of its participation in the joint action to grant a $500 million "support" credit to Argentina, an action that has been seen as cooperation in a "scab" action, since the Alfonsin government was not left free to state its problem with due firmness.

The PSUM Central Committee indicated that thedebtors front was proposed after the Quito meeting and since then the PSUM has demanded a moratorium which, with the creation of the front, could become a reality.

OPPOSITION PARTIES WANT REFUGEES' STATUS DEFINED

PA292149 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 May 84 p 29-A

[Text] The National Action Party (PAN) has demanded that the Mexican Government define the legal status of the Guatemalan families that enter Mexico via the southern border, because it is impossible to know whether they are the victims of political persecution or social injustice. Meanwhile, the PPS [Popular Socialist Party] indicated that the lives of those who enter our national territory must be protected at all costs.

Jesus Gonzalez Schmall of the PAN said that Guatemalans who enter Mexico "experience the same situation as do our workers who go to the United States, who are neither refugees nor politically persecuted. This is where there is a hole in the law, which should be clarified, so that we may act accordingly. If they are refugees, the Mexican Government must protext them, but this has to be defined." In this regard, Ignacio Gonzalez Gollaz, leader of the Mexican Democratic Party (PDM), said that neither the northern nor the southern border should be the cause of international conflicts or friction "and if there is a hole in the law, each side must solve that part of the problem that belongs to it. Guatemala must assume its responsibility and Mexico must enforce the law," he indicated.

However, the PPS, PAN, and PDM agreed that Mexico has acted prudently by relocating the Guatemalan refugees in areas that are free of conflict, such as Campeche, since their presence in the border area is the cause of tension. Gonzalez Schmall agreed with PPS spokesman Francisco Ortiz Mendoza that the refugees' presence in southwestern Mexico does not lead to social conflicts, since these are areas that the federal government plans to colonize. There are areas that can be inhabited and worked, and settling people there does not constitute a burden on a threat to the country.

"What the government should do is to ensure that the southern border does not become a no-man's-land. It should establish legal means to prevent the indiscriminate entrance of Central Americans, which would provoke social problems. If they are refugees, they should be given all necessary guarantees as individuals who are being politically persecuted, since the most important thing is to save their lives," Gonzales Gollaz said.

For its part, the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] charged that "a campaign if underway to persecute the Central American refugees; a case in point is that of Salvadorans Nelly Ruth Rivera Zavala and Julio Cesar Campos, who were arrested by Immigration Services agents in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz and deported on 21 and 22 May, respectively." It also indicated that it is not only the Central American refugees who are being persecuted, as actions also taken against Mexicans who support peoples who are strggling. Activists in the PSUM and PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] have felt the effects of this harrassment campaign, which contradicts the federal government's open-door policy toward those who flee from the violence in Central America.

FOREIGN POLICY PRAISED BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR

PA250018 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 May 84 p 1

[By Hilda Tapia]

[Text] The Government of the USSR views with pleasure the foreign policy of Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado and has described as of great importance the Mexican president's recent tours of various American countries. Rostilav Sergeyev, USSR ambassador to Mexico, who made this statement, also stressed that the topics President De la Madrid discussed with the heads of state of the countries visited are held in high regard by the USSR. These topics are a part of the relations between Mexico and other nations.

He said that President De la Madrid broached topics of great importance during his various speeches, since he mentioned the arms race, detente, and the responsibility to maintain peace not only in Central America but in the world.

We agree with the analysis made by the Mexican president regarding the Central American problem. The USSR, the ambassador added, supports Contadora as a possibility and as the real path to resolve the critical situation prevailing in this region.

Likewise, the Soviet diplomat mentioned the need to draft a new ideology for the development of the Third World countries. He added that it is indispensable to have a new international economic order for a better and easier development of the developing nations.

INDUSTRIAL TRADE ACCORDS SIGNED WITH CUBA

FL281806 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2120 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Mexico City, 27 May (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industries has reported that Mexico and Cuba have signed a financial and trade accord totaling $400 million, which will help meet the industrial demands of the two countries.

The agreement covers the selling of heavy equipment, machinery, tools, and exchange of technology and minerals. It also covers the railway sector. A sugar accord was also signed.

The secretariat said the signing of the accord concluded official talks between the two countries' government and business delegations.

The agreement was signed after 3 days of discussions on bilateral cooperation in the iron and steel industry, transport, chemicals, fertilizer, energy, mining and petroleum, sugar, and the joint production of completed sugar mills which will be sold to a third country.

The protocol was signed by Mexico's Secretary of Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry Francisco Labastida Ochoa and Cuba's Minister President of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE] Hector Rodriguez Llompart.

Labastida Ochoa said that in this period of crisis and facing international trade obstacles, Latin American countries should seek their own solutions in establishing an authentic and comprehensive complementary industrial trade arrangement. He said that the signing of the accord had made Mexico and Cuba better and closer friends, adding that carrying out the trade agreements would give validity to the accord.

JUSTICE MINISTER ON FIREARMS, DRUG TRAFFICKERS

PA270113 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 May 84

[Excerpt] Panamanian Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon has said that anyone caught carrying a firearm will be punished, even if he has the necessary permit, since the resolution that bans the carrying of weapons before, during, and after the elections is still in force.

Chiari stressed that no request for asylum for Eden Pastora, Commander Cero, or for his relatives has been presented at his office. He added that the ministry's offices will remain open on Sunday, 3 June, as a gesture of cooperation with the Electoral Tribunal in the municipal elections.

On the country's political situation, Chiari said:

"We appeal to all Panamanians to remember, first of all, that we are all brothers and that, when the elections are over, we should make plans to work together in implementing the government plans that we have drafted to achieve a better Panama."

Asked about the Panamanian Government's treatment of the Colombians who were caught processing cocaine, Chiari said:

[Chiari] They will be turned over to the Colombian authorities, where they will be tried by Colombian law.

[Unidentified reporter] When will this transfer be effected?

[Chiari] We are planning to do it as soon as possible, maybe over the weekend.

ARIAS APPEALS DECISION, SEEKS RECONSIDERATION

PA300129 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 May 84 p 1

[Excerpt] Yesterday Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid asked the Electoral Tribunal to reconsider its ruling which rejected his previous appeal to "declare null and void the proclamations contained in Resolutions No 235 of 20 May 1984," in favor of official candidate Ardito Barletta.

The appeal for reconsideration was submitted yesterday afternoon by Attorney Jose Salvador Munoz, representing the opposition candidate, and was received by Electoral Tribunal Secretary Everardo Tomlinson's secretary, since no Electoral Tribunal officials or magistrates were present at the moment. The magistrates will see the appeal when they meet today, an Electoral Tribunal spokesman told LA PRENSA. The Electoral Tribunal closed immediately after receiving the appeal for reconsideration.

QUINTERO DEFENDS ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL'S WORK

PA291500 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 May 84 pp 1, 22

[By Mario Martinez Puente]

[Text] Dr Cesar Quintero, president of the Electoral Tribunal, expressed surprise over the content of the "Panamanian Episcopal Conference's Declaration on the Electoral Process," signed by Monsignor Carrizo, president, Monsignor Marcos Gregorio McGrath, and the other Panamanian bishops.

Quintero said it is not true that the elections lacked organization. If there were any mistakes, they were due to human factors.

"The Panamanians who did not appear in the first Electoral Registry had the opportunity to register and did not," Quintero said. He added that, although it is true that almost 300,000 Panamanians did not vote, this was due to many factors and not to the Electoral Tribunal's deficiencies. The Electoral Tribunal was able, with great effort, to include in the final registry 100,000 Panamanians who had not been previously registered.

He added: "If those Panamanians did not vote, it was because they did not want to. Approximately 600,000 of the 900,000-odd registered voters cast their ballots. This gives us an average of 70 percent, which has been the usual figure for presidential elections in Panama." He added that the schoolteachers "did not cooperate" and poorly trained personnel had to be chosen to carry out many complicated tasks at the voting tables -- which caused the usual mistakes.

Dr Quintero referred to the mistakes in spelling and additions which were committed in several voting tables, due to the deficient personnel chosen for the tables.

"Many poor people, without adequate preparation, came to work to earn the 20 balboas they were being paid, because they needed the money," he said would not be possible due to lack of time. [sentence as published]

Dr Quintero conservatively estimated "it would take 43 days to complete this job, if we spend an average 10 minutes per tally sheet -- providing we have no problems with it -- and work 15 hours a day." They are normally reviewing 70 to 90 tally sheets in 15 hours.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS PROTEST ELECTION FRAUD

PA290426 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0403 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 28 May (LATIN-REUTER) -- Some 4,000 supporters of the opposition staged a demonstration today, the fourth in less than a week, against alleged fraud in the 6 May presidential elections, witnesses reported. Last week the Electoral Tribunal declared official candidate Nicolas Ardito Barletta the winner of the elections by a narrow margin of 1,713 votes over opposition leader, Arnulfo Arias, 83, three-time president of Panama who was overthrown on all three occasions by the National Guard.

A spokesman for Arias' Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO) said today that the protests will continue indefinitely, "even if we have to take up arms to ensure that Dr Arias' legitimate victory is respected."

Yesterday, the Panamanian Catholic Church harshly criticized the handling of the first elections held in the country in 16 years, appealing to the tribunal to shed light on a series of "irregularities" in the elections.

The opposition has charged that the prolonged delay in the announcement of the results of the second and final round [as received] of the elections indicated that they had been fraudulent.

On Monday, 15,000 demonstrators marched through the streets of the capital demanding the rejection of the tribunal's proclamation. Smaller demonstrations were held 2 days later. Christian Democratic youths staged a peaceful occupation of the United Nations office here and urged the democratic countries not to recognize Ardito Barletta's government.

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT OFFERS EMBASSY FOR SALVADORAN TALKS

PA291723 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] San Jose -- The Costa Rican Government has offered its embassy in San Salvador as a possible meeting place for the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas in case an agreement is reached to hold a dialogue to find peace in the country, an official spokesman has reported. Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge is the mediator requested by the rebels.

MONGE, GUTIERREZ VISIT SPAIN, DISCUSS EL SALVADOR

For reportage on the visit to Spain by President Luis Alberto Monge and Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, including visits with King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and reports on Monge's possible mediation in the Salvadoran conflict, see the Spain section of the 30 May Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

PVP DEMANDS NEUTRALITY PROCLAMATION BE ENFORCED

PA260520 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 15 May 84 p 12-A

[Paid advertisement placed by the Popular Vanguard Party, PVP, of Costa Rica: "Let's Defend Neutrality and Peace"]

[Text] Costa Rica's peace is in danger. The country's rightist forces, directed by the U.S. State Department, want to drag us into a war with Nicaragua. Such a war would benefit no one, while it would sink Costa Rica into an even deeper economic crisis, bringing grief and death to our families, and seriously endangering the democratic rights that our people have achieved over the last 20 years. The reactionary forces' basic objective is to force the Costa Rican Government to relinquish its proclamation of neutrality. Despite its limitations, this proclamation contains most of the basic principles of coexistence among nations with different social and political characteristics. If applied conscientiously, it could ensure that Costa Rica would not get involved in a regional conflict. Since its promulgation, our party has maintained an unchanged stance toward it: We have supported it and have called on the people to ensure that it is properly applied.

The Costa Rican people have noted with concern that, making a mockery of this proclamation, the counterrevolutionary forces have continued to use our national territory to attack Nicaragua, thus seriously endangering Costa Rica's national sovereignty and peace.

A plan to use the Costa Rican people as cannon fodder in a war against Nicaragua is afoot. Through massive use of the news media, the reactionary forces have launched an irresponsible warmongering campaign, causing alarm about alleged Nicaraguan raids on our territory. Through its agents and its embassy, the United States has intensified its pressure on President Monge's government to accept military engineers, to participate in joint military or police exercises, and, finally, to permit the entry of U.S. military personnel in our country so that they can unleash a direct attack on the Sandinist revolution from our territory. These proposals, if agreed to, would turn our homeland into a militarily occupied country and would lead to the destruction of the democratic liberties we now possess.

The Costa Rican Government consists of citizens who realistically understand the evil results of such a war. But there are also forces in the government that want the neutrality proclamation to be eradicated and the Costa Rican people to be launched into a fratricidal war. The Costa Rican people must be mobilized. It is necessary that all Costa Ricans, regardless of political philosophy, join efforts around that which unites us. We must vigorously demand:

1. That the neutrality proclamation be enforced in full;

2. That, in accordance with the proclamation, the use of our national territory for attacks on neighboring nations cease immediately;

3. That the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary forces be expelled from our country, as it is they who are responsible for the border conflicts between Costa Rica and Nicaragua;

4. That the government maintain its firm determination not to allow U.S. military engineers, or those of any foreign military force, into the country.

Neutrality is peace

Out with Pastora!

Popular Vanguard Party

Responsible signature: Leonardo Umana Vargas, I.D. 1-572-952

PVP LEADER ON ALLEGED ARDE, CIA OPERATIONS

PA291830 San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish 18-24 May 84 p 5

[Open letter by Manuel Mora Valverde, PVP secretary general of the Popular Vanguard Party, date and place not given]

[Text] LA NACION columnist Enrique Benavides and Interior Minister Alfonso Carro have assailed me as a result of my letter to the president of the Republic from Managua dated 4 May. Both of them are trying to show the public that my statements in that letter are false. On the personal level, both of them have launched similar attacks against me, but Benavides writes more subtly than Carro. Carro crudely calls me a "cynic" and depicts me as "a traitor to the homeland." I would reply to both of them over a radio station willing to sell me time, because a proper answer is not possible in this limited space. Nevertheless, there will be enough space here to make the necessary and sufficient statements to allow Minister Carro, with the support of the Government Council, to sue me as he wishes to do. The penal code allows him to do so if he really believes that I have betrayed my homeland by supporting Nicaragua in the struggle of that brother country against the CIA and the Pentagon.

I have made public statements and will defend and maintain them before any tribunal. I have said:

First: The CIA, following President Reagan's orders, has operated and continues to operate in Costa Rica against Nicaragua through the procurement of the Government Ministry. Occasionally, Deputy Interior Minister Chacon himself has openly helped, too.

Second: The CIA is heavily funded by the U.S. Government to achieve two short-run objectives: a) to break Costa Rican-Nicaraguan relations; b) to provoke an armed confrontation, hopefully a fierce one, between Costa Rica and Nicaragua to give the United States an excuse to occupy the country's northern area with a mercenary army to be called the "peace force." It would claim to be defending weak and democratic Costa Rica from a Nicaraguan attack.

Third: The so-called "Pastora forces," which are actually "CIA forces," have camps, offices, radio stations, and military communications bases on our territory with the consent of Government Ministry authorities.

Fourth: The Revolutionary Democratic Alliance [ARDE] holds troops and arms caches in the border area near the banks of the San Juan River that are constantly being used to carry out incursions into Nicaraguan territory and to attack the Army and people of that country. The weapons have been arriving in those conspiracy centers from Panama via Costa Rican territory.

Fifth: ARDE, probably together with the CIA, planned and organized the two attacks on Penas Blancas in Costa Rica. The Sandinist Army was forced to defend itself and the attackers, who came from Costa Rica, returned to their bases after the attack.

Sixth: The alleged invasion of Costa Rica on 4 May by the Sandinist Army never happened. It was a perverse invention of Rural Police soldiers that Carro has overlooked. The terrible bombing of Pocosol, a small 50-house village, which resulted in no casualties, was an ARDE-CIA operation to hasten a break in Costa Rican-Nicaraguan relations. I never said that this was a self-bombing carried out by Costa Rican authorities.

I maintain what I have stated here, and I believe that I would be able to prove it before the tribunals. I fight to prevent my homeland from being involved in an unjust war. The Nicaraguan people are brothers of the Costa Rican people, not our enemies. I am not betraying Costa Rica by helping the Nicaraguan people defend themselves from attacks ordered by Reagan. Those who help the most reactionary U.S. forces, headed by the CIA, become the owners and lords of Central America are betraying Costa Rica.

EL SALVADOR

COL CARRANZA APPOINTED ATTACHE IN BONN

PA252346 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 25 May 84 p 1

[Excerpts] Colonel Nicolas Carranza, director general of the Treasury Police, has been appointed military attache at the Salvadoran Embassy in Bonn, military sources reported today. A reporter from EL DIARIO DE HOY interviewed Col Carranza in his office and confirmed the report.

Asked about charges linking him to the death squads, Col Carranza said that time will reveal the truth. Col Carranza also said that he has been at the head of the Treasury Police for a year, and that in that time he has changed the institution's image with regard to human rights.

It was learned from other military sources that Colonel Reinaldo Golcher will replace Colonel Carranza. It was also reported that Colonel Mario Denis Moran, commander of the Armed Forces Engineering Training Center, has been transferred to the scholarships' section of the Armed Forces staff, and will be replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Orlando Montano.

GUTIERREZ, PAZ TO BE DECORATED DURING VISIT

PA250330 Paris AF in Spanish 0236 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 24 May (AFP) -- Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez and Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica arrived in San Salvador on Thursday to be decorated by the Salvadoran Government with the Order of Jose Matias Delgado, the country's highest honor. Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena said that Gutierrez and Paz Barnica will be decorated "in view of their outstanding virtues and their efforts in search of peace and the establishment of democracy in Central America." Chavez added: However, we will take advantage of the opportunity to analyze the results of the most recent meeting of the Contadora Group's foreign ministers held in Panama early this month and to evaluate the work of the group's technical commission.

CHURCH ON 'FORCIBLE' REBEL RECRUITMENT OF YOUTHS

PA290232 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Catholic Church today demanded, on behalf of Salvadoran families, that the left-wing FMLN guerrillas assume a more respectful attitude toward the country's civilian population. It noted that the week that just ended was relatively calm, as far as violent deaths are concerned. However, the anguish of many families has increased because of the forcible recruitment of youths by the rebels in the eastern region of El Salvador, in Soyapango, east of the capital, and particularly in the Las Flores neighborhood of the Tonacatepeque jurisdiction.

How long ago are the days when many young people signed up voluntarily and enthusiastically, many times without their parents' knowledge or against their will, in the guerrilla organizations, the bishop said in his Sunday homily in the cathedral. Idealism, romanticism, or the assurance that led many to make that decision at the time have given way with the passing of time to a firm rejection by our youth of the option of violence, Auxiliary Bishop Rosas Chavez stated. The Catholic Church joins the clamor of the Salvadoran families, who are rightfully demanding their children back, and asks the FMLN to demonstrate a more respectful attitude toward the civilian population.

Rosas Chavez also asked the Salvadoran guerrillas to respect the life of Captain Medina Garay, who was captured by the rebels in fighting in the eastern region and has been held for several months. The priest said that Dr Alvaro Magana's presidential term is ending with positive results, such as the reopening of the university campus, which, it is hoped, will soon become a genuine center of higher learning, where true leaders, capable of building a new Salvadoran society, can be molded. Rosas Chavez added that current President Alvaro Magana must also be given credit for his undeniable merit in guiding the country's destiny with discretion, patience, and prudence toward less somber horizons.

Jose Napoleon Duarte's new government now has the formidable task of consolidating the democratization process on the basis of profound and authentic concern for men, all men, for this is the only reason to be a head of state, Bishop Rosas Chavez said.

Commenting on the imminent arrival of Christian Democratic President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte and on his recent visit to the United States, he said: The visit was subject to a merciless bombardment by the U.S. press and politicians. He defined some of his principal concerns and the priority tasks he intends to carry out. We share many of his concerns, because they are directed at the root of our ills.

We see in them hope for our afflicted brothers, particularly the poorest sectors, but we all know that it will not be easy to convert such good proposals into concrete facts. Furthermore, it will be virtually impossible for Duarte to govern without the firm cooperation of the country's active forces, Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosas Chavez stated.

COPREFA REPORTS FOUR REBELS KILLED IN CLASHES

PA290039 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 May 84

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA; date not given]

[Text] Four extremists were killed over the weekend in various clashes with the Salvadoran Army. During a patrolling operation carried out over the weekend, members of the No 1 Military Detachment, headquartered in Chalatenango, clashed with terrorist squads near Conchagua Hill, in the Comalapa jurisdiction of Chalatenango Department. Two extremists were killed in the operation. Meanwhile, members of the 3d Infantry Brigade clashed with extremist columns near the hamlet of Moropala, in the El Transito jurisdiction of San Miguel Department. Two terrorists were killed and an M-16 rifle was recovered, while two Army soldiers were wounded in this operation.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON REBEL OPERATIONS

Clash on Coastal Highway

PA270258 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] According to information received from the Francisco Sanchez southeastern front, a unit belonging to the Commander Gonzalo southern group of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade occupied a stretch of the coastal highway at a place known as (Los Chihuilotes), between the El Coyolito Bridge and the San Francisco Javier turnoff, at 0600 on 25 May.

At 0830, the dictatorship's Army sent about 250 men in 5 trucks. A bazooka round fired by our men hit one of these trucks, while our men opened rifle fire on the enemy convoy. The resulting clash lasted 20 minutes. As a result, the puppet Army suffered about nine casualties, both dead and wounded. After inflicting the casualties and striking at the Duarte regime's troops, our men withdrew in an orderly fashion. This information was sent to us from the Francisco Sanchez southeastern front in Usulutan Department by Commander Roberto Jimenez.

FMLN Sappers Cut Power

PA270447 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] The country's eastern area was again left without electricity Friday night at 1900 when FMLN sappers cut cables on the Pan-American Highway near Chinameca. It has been reported that the $10 million gas turbine plant that was inaugurated by Magana yesterday suffered a short-circuit when it was started. Special units in the FMLN's Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade have chosen not to destroy this plant because the FMLN thinks it will be useful to the revolutionary forces once the dictatorship's troops leave the eastern part of the country. In any event, the FMLN forces can cut the energy supply lines in the east whenever they want, even at the recently inaugurated plant.

FMLN-FDR MESSAGE ON MONGE MEDIATION, DIALOGUE

PA292050 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 29 May 84

[Message released by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command and the Revolutionary Democratic Front, "disseminated to various national and international sectors;" place and date not given]

[Text] The problem of peace in El Salvador is U.S. intervention in our domestic affairs. We have confirmed before our people and the international community our willingness to find a solution to war through dialogue and negotiation. The (?statements) by Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, the highest representative of the Salvadoran Catholic Church, expressing gladness at our renewed willingness to hold a dialogue without prerequisites, show that our proposals respond to the Salvadoran people's just longing for peace. This morning, the international news agencies stressed that Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has received the FDR soldiers. [as heard] We have requested from President Monge that he continue as a mediator for a political solution to the war in our country. President Monge told us that Jose Napoleon Duarte, during his recent visit to Costa Rica, told him that he, Duarte, is willing to hold a dialogue. Very well. Now it's Duarte's turn to express a clear stance regarding the efforts that we are making here in El Salvador, and elsewhere, to achieve peace in El Salvador.

We know Duarte's commitment, along with U.S. imperialism, to intensify intervention in El Salvador and Central America. We do not dismiss, however, the possibility that Duarte will decide in favor of a national path of a true democratic solution. We are ready to (?receive) the Duarte government's proposals at any time. But in order to attain peace, our people must first deal with an enemy, the U.S. Government. The Reagan administration has laid out a single path for the Duarte government, that of an absolute surrender to its war plans. The policy of the Yankee government is war. Our people aspire to peace. The demand for a political solution to attain peace in El Salvador must be (?supported) by all popular, democratic, progressive, religious, and academic sectors. [Passage indistinct]

VENCEREMOS NOTES APPROVAL OF U.S. MILITARY AID

PA250423 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] On Thursday, the U.S. House of Representatives approved $62 million in military aid for the Salvadoran puppet Army, it has been reported from Washington. The funds for the emergency aid for the genocidal Army had been desperately requested by Ronald Reagan, the warmongering U.S. President, in view of the dictatorship's critical military situation. In this regard, CIA-elected Napoleon Duarte played an important role when he begged the United States for the military aid which, in the end, will be of no avail to the Army.

VENCEREMOS ON CREATION OF NEW ARMY BATTALION

PA270301 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] According to sources at the U.S. Embassy in Honduras, 1,000 members of the Salvadoran puppet Army returned from the U.S. base in Puerto Castilla, Honduras, yesterday. The 1,000 men, trained by 170 U.S. Army Green Berets, have now been organized into a new unit in the genocidal Army called the General Bracamonte Battalion. Despite its change of leaders, Honduras has continued to serve as an operational and training base for Central American counterrevolutionary and reactionary forces.

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRADE DENIES U.S. PRESSURE

PA300316 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 May 84 p 4

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran told newsmen yesterday that the U.S. Government is not exerting any pressure, direct or indirect, on Guatemala's policies. Andrade Diaz-Duran also told them about the interest expressed by some U.S. congressmen in coming to our country as observers for the elections, saying that if they do come they will see for themselves that we have democracy in our country.

Later, he said that Guatemala unconditionally supports the Contadora Group's efforts, because democracy is the only means of achieving peace in Central America. He referred to the Contadora Group as an independent organization that is working to secure peace in Central America, while the OAS, a regional organization, has not been invited to participate in the process. Andrade Diaz-Duran said that some of the U.S. congressmen with whom he talked in Washington about the political improvements in our country have expressed great interest in visiting Guatemala for the elections.

PAZ BARNICA MEETS MEJIA, VIEWS U.S. PRESENCE

PA300252 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 29 May 84 p 4

[Text] Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has told Guatemalan newsmen that his country will never become a satellite of the United States, or of any other power for that matter. He made this statement after leaving the office of General Oscar Mejia Victores, the Guatemalan head of state, with whom he exchanged views on Central American issues. Paz Barnica, who is on a 2-day good-will visit to Guatemala, refused to comment on the problems between his country and Nicaragua. However, he did say that "although our relations have been tense, they are now improving."

Paz Barnica, who arrived a little after 1600 today, was met by Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran at the Air Force Base landing field. When a reporter asked him about the possibility of "Honduras becoming a U.S. satellite," Paz Barnica said that this was absolutely false. Honduras is a free nation and will never be a satellite, he declared. Asked about the number of U.S. military bases in Honduras, Paz Barnica said that "there are no U.S. military bases in my country." Paz Barnica and Andrade Diaz-Duran met for approximately an hour. It has been learned that agreements of mutual interest will be signed.

HONDURAS

PAZ, NICARAGUAN CHARGE DISCUSS RELATIONS

To Stay at Charge Level

PA291816 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1632 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] After meeting with the Nicaraguan charge affaires, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica told Radio America that yesterday he once again asked the Nicaraguan Government to set aside its belligerent, hostile, and aggressive attitude toward Honduras. Paz Barnica told the Nicaraguan special envoy that reestablishing relations at the ambassadorial level is not possible for the time being. We want a change in the Nicaraguan attitude, Paz Barnica reiterated.

Here is his statement in a report by journalist Marta Lidia Reino:

[Begin recording] [Reino] The Honduran foreign secretary will now refer to his meeting yesterday morning with Danilo Abu Vivas, the Nicaraguan Government's special envoy.

[Paz Barnica] Danilo Abu Vivas has been accredited as Nicaraguan charge d'affaires in our country. He arrived in Tegucigalpa about a week ago. As a result, he requested that we hold a meeting to exchange views, since he is taking office at the level of charge d'affaires following the downing of the helicopter -- an unarmed helicopter rather than a helicopter gunship -- carrying eight respected Hondurans. This was for the Honduran Government and people an extremely unfortunate and distressing event that obviously damaged relations between Honduras and Nicaragua. Despite this action, the constitutional and democratic government of President Suazo Cordova and the Honduran Armed Forces acted prudently at the time so that this situation could be handled through diplomatic channels, thus preventing a larger-scale confrontation with Nicaragua. This stance responds to the peace policy of the Honduran Government and Armed Forces.

The Nicaraguan charge d'affaires visited me and we exchanged viewpoints since we are two countries that have diplomatic relations. The only difference is that these relations are now at the charge d'affaires level. We discussed various topics and he told me that he was in charge of Central American affairs in the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry and that his appointment to Tegucigalpa showed the importance that his country gives to relations with Honduras.

I told him that the Honduran Government hopes that the verbal war in Central America will end. Statements must be toned down. It told him that I recently read some remarks by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government junta, who said that when the Honduran foreign secretary said anything he did so under CIA instructions. **[Passage indistinct] I only follow** the instructions of the constitutional Honduran Government, freely elected by the Honduran people, and my own democratic and peaceful beliefs, and my remarks are based on our decision to work for peace and democracy in Central America. Therefore, it is advisable that this verbal war decrease or end. One must help create an atmosphere of detente in the Central American area and fully support the Contadora Group. I also told him that we trust that the Nicaraguan Government will think about this and soon show the political determination and desire to accept a commitment within the framework of the Contadora Group's efforts in the three [as heard] subjects that we have mentioned. [end recording]

Managua on Meeting

PA291755 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- After a courtesy visit paid in Tegucigalpa by new Nicaraguan Charge d'Affaires Danilo Abu Vivas, it has been reported that Honduras is refusing to resume normal relations with Nicaragua.

Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica categorically stated that the relations between the two countries would be limited to the charge d'affaires level. Vivas carried the revolutionary government's wishes to restore normal relations.

EPS ACCUSED OF MINING BORDER; TWO KILLED

PA291615 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Reports from the region near the Nicaraguan border reveal that two peasant women were killed and a girl was seriously wounded last Friday when a mine exploded in the area known as Las Palmas, jurisdiction of Alauca, El Paraiso Department. The reports accuse members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] of being responsible for placing the mine on Honduran territory, 1 km from the border. The unfortunate victims had gone out to gather twigs for a broom when one of the women stepped on the mine and it exploded, inflicting two deaths and one wounded. It is truly deplorable that these events are taking place when the Latin American community is seriously exerting itself to find peaceful solutions to the crisis prevailing in Central America. Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has repeatedly said during recent [word indistinct] that the Honduran people are especially interested that peace returns to the region. [Words indistinct] despite foreign threats and hostile attitudes that are constantly directed against our territorial integrity, Honduras maintains its non-belligerent stand and will try to withstand any attempt to involve it in a war situation, given its desire for peace and democracy. We fully agree with Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica and believe that this is a feeling shared by a vast majority of Hondurans. Our southern neighbors seem to have adopted a position that counters the one adopted by Honduras because [word indistinct] want war. However, we want peace and (?this cannot be achieved) with provocations.

UNION LEADERS MEET ARMED FORCES CHIEF ON NEW TAXES

PA291635 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 29 May 84

[Excerpts] The representatives of the major trade unions and the leaders of the opposition political parties met yesterday with the chief of the Honduran Armed Forces and the institution's high command to discuss the developments currently taking shape in connection with the levying of new taxes. Here is Alejandro Casco's report:

[Beg n recording] [Casco] Napoleon Acevedo Granados, president of the United Federation of Honduran Workers, reports on what transpired at the meeting held with the chief of the Armed Forces.

[Acevedo Granados] We discussed our national problems in general, stressing the situation created by the tax package decreed by the government, which has us very worried. We (?stated) very clearly the position held by the organized union movement. In this regard, there was no incoherence among the three unions that participated in these talks. We maintained a united stand. We think a solution might be found, because we saw that the chief of the Armed Forces is concerned over the situation. The only thing I could add is that he promised to inform the president of the Republic about our concerns, either today or tomorrow at the latest. [end recording]

Managua: Workers To Protest

PA291630 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The three Honduran unions have announced a protest march to be held today by some 50,000 workers against the new taxes ordered by the Honduran Government under IMF pressure. Private enterprise leaders, however, who had formerly supported the workers' stance, announced after meeting with President Roberto Suazo Cordova that they condemn all street demonstrations.

NICARAGUA

MEXICO OFFERS TO MEDIATE IN TALKS WITH U.S.

PA291507 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1445 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Mexico City, 29 May (DPA) -- The United States and Nicaragua have reportedly accepted a Mexican proposal to begin an "exploration" process that would lead to "firm and specific negotiations for the normalization of their bilateral relations," the Mexico City newspaper EXCELSIOR announced today. Citing unspecified diplomatic sources, the newspaper said that "U.S. and Nicaraguan officials have begun that process in a preliminary manner," and that "both governments have already presented their conditions for participating in negotiations." According to the report, the U.S. Government has demanded that the Sandinist government permit the participation of all Nicaraguans, without exception, in the 4 November elections and that it end the alleged aid it gives to the Salvadoran guerrillas. For its part, the Nicaraguan Government has reportedly demanded the suspension of the economic and military aggression against Nicaragua. According to the Mexican newspaper, whose report has not been confirmed by any official source, the U.S. Administration's "opening" is reportedly the result of President Miguel de la Madrid's recent trip to Washington.

ORTEGA ON COSTA RICAN RELATIONS, U.S. PLANS

PA280514 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 18 May 84 pp 10-A, 11-A

[Interview with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, by LA NACION correspondent Lafitte Fernandez R. and an unidentified Channel 2 Television reporter -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [LA NACION] Relations between our two countries are at their lowest point in recent history. You have accused us of harboring rebels and we have accused you of attacking us and violating our national sovereignty. Who is right? why have our relations reached such a point?

[Ortega] We are accusing the United States, not Costa Rica. In short, the United States is accusing itself. It is U.S. policy that has created the Central American crisis, and any actions that are taken against Nicaragua compromise Costa Rica's neutrality. It all complies with a plan to turn Costa Rica into another Honduras, which they have already occupied. Now they want to occupy Costa Rica, to continue their plans of aggression against Nicaragua. Naturally, all of our charges are not directed toward the Costa Rican Government; however, there is a stronger force, the United States, that does not want a political solution in the region. This is what will complicate the stability of Costa Rica.

[LA NACION] You have repeatedly mentioned the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. How does it operate in Costa Rica? You have said that they are buying off Costa Rican officials.

[Ortega] The way in which the CIA operates is well known. It is openly talked about in the United States. They have established camps, repaired airstrips, and are performing other jobs in Costa Rican territory. We have mentioned this to Costa Rican officials and they have confirmed it. Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon confirmed the current Reagan administration's policy of aggression. He made this statement to LA NACION and by doing so he went against his own government's policy. That was an imprudent action, which contradicts Costa Rica's policy of neutrality.

[Channel 2] There is something you have not answered. Why are there the attacks on Costa Rican territory?

[Ortega] The attacks come from Costa Rican territory. We have been very clear about this. We are undergoing attacks from the CIA mercenaries all along our border with Costa Rica. Let us be clear about one thing: The CIA is interested in causing a death, for use as a symbol with which to arouse the people and to provoke a U.S. intervention through Costa Rica. However, those who are interested in this have not yet realized that an attack on Nicaragua would affect all the Central American countries, particularly those that are serving as a base for attacks on Nicaragua, and this is not the solution to our problems.

[LA NACION] But you have changed your language. You are no longer speaking of attacks but of self-attacks that take place or will take place in Costa Rican territory. Have you any proof of this?

[Ortega] We have reports on this that have been presented at international organizations like the OAS. When we learn that such an action is going to take place, we inform your country's authorities. These are actions that are staged by the CIA, ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] members, and Costa Rican guards who do not obey the orders issued by their superiors or who follow the orders of those who work for the CIA, such as Deputy Minister Chacon.

[LA NACION] Have you ever thought about invading Costa Rica?

[Ortega] Nicaragua will never invade Costa Rica. It will not even invade Honduras, which is deeply involved in the aggression against my country. We have confirmed this at international forums. What we must say is that the United States is using Central American territory to launch attacks on Nicaragua, and it has chosen two of the countries that border on ours, Costa Rica and Honduras, for this purpose. The more the United States brings these countries into its plans, the more involved Costa Rica becomes.

[LA NACION] Are you trying to tell us that you will not be at ease as long as the U.S. engineers are in Costa Rica?

[Ortega] If those troops do arrive, detente will certainly not be served; indeed, it will worsen the tension. The fact that there are already some U.S. advisers in your country and that they are talking about military support also makes the situation more tense.

[Channel 2] From all that you have told us, we gather that you have deployed a large number of troops on the border with Costa Rica.

[Ortega] We have the usual troop deployment on our border. This is a preventive measure, intended to counter the constant attacks that are coming from Honduran and Costa Rican territory. It is also intended to prevent a military attack by the United States. We have the forces necessary to face such an intervention. So, we have no troops specifically aimed at Costa Rica. We are taking precautions against the mercenaries that operate in your country and against possible U.S. intervention.

[Channel 2] You mentioned a U.S. military presence in Costa Rica. Where is it? Do you have any proof?

[Ortega] When we issue a warning, we do so with conviction. We have information that this is being considered in the United States and being debated by the U.S. Congress.

They have mentioned U.S. personnel as alleged advisers for the police or for other services, although the number is fairly limited at the moment -- there are only 25 of them. Still, the truth is that they have been there for several months now. What they want is to involve Costa Rica in the aggression.

[LA NACION] Would you involve us in the war?

[Ortega] If the United States supports itself using Honduras and Costa Rica and launches an invasion against Nicaragua, then the theater of war would move from Nicaragua to Honduras and Costa Rica, for purposes of defense. This has been a military law throughout history and we are not going to be an exception.

[LA NACION] You are very well informed about my country. We must assume, therefore, that you spy on us. How do you do it? Or don't you?

[Ortega] We don't need to spy to be aware of the activities that the CIA and the mercenaries carry out in Costa Rica. Covert activities have become overt. The U.S. media are revealing all of the details involved in CIA activities in Central America. Besides, we already know their plans: The United States, acting on behalf of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR), is to pass through Costa Rica and launch an attack in Nicaragua. There would also be an attack from Honduras. This would be a simultaneous action, the political pretext for which would be Costa Rica. If your country falls into this trap, it would be involving itself in the war.

[Channel 2] Are you considering an invasion of Costa Rican territory?

[Ortega] We must be clear: As the CIA's attacks on Nicaragua increase, we are obliged to place forces on the border with Costa Rica to defend ourselves. Also, to the extent that Costa Rica permits an increase in the U.S. military presence, we must strengthen our presence in the border region, to defend ourselves against a possible U.S. attack. Nicaragua will not attack first, but if the U.S. intervention does take place, the theater of the war would include Nicaragua, Honduras, and Costa Rica. Therefore, common sense and reason must prevail. It must be realized that a war that is promoted in this way against Nicaragua will involve Costa Rica as well.

[LA NACION] Do you view the military aid the United States will give Costa Rica as a provocation or as the exercise of a sovereign right?

[Ortega] The timing and pretext used for giving this aid to Costa Rica certainly constitute a provocation. Had it been intended to control mercenary activities in Costa Rica, the assistance would be something else again, but it is being provided in response to an alleged attack by Nicaragua on Costa Rica, despite the fact that there is not a single victim. Thus, this aid is obviously an offensive military response against Nicaragua.

[LA NACION] Commander, is it not disrespectful to think that President Monge's government is lending itself to the actions you have charged?

[Ortega] When we say that Costa Rica could find itself involved in a policy of aggression against Nicaragua, we base ourselves on facts. Costa Rican territory is already being affected by the presence of the CIA, which supports the ARDE groups. We must admit that although President Monge and most of the members of his cabinet defend neutrality, Reagan's policy is, for all practical purposes, being imposed. These are de facto situations that are building up and putting the Monge administration in a corner.

BAYARDO ARCE COMMENTS ON SOVIET, U.S. TIES

Denies Soviet 'Meddling'

PA281400 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Mexico City -- Nicaragua wants to have good relations with the United States, just as it has good relations with other countries. This statement was made by Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce. The Sandinist leader said that the Reagan administration is resorting, like never before, to lies and misinformation to back its allegations that there is Soviet meddling in Nicaragua. Any half-witted politician knows that the Nicaraguan revolution was carried out with no Soviet meddling at all, with no Soviet cooperation at all. If right now we have very fraternal, cordial, and friendly relations with the Soviet Union, this is for the same reason that we have the same type of relations with Faance, the FRG, Italy, Spain, and the Arab countries. We would like to have this type of relations with the United States also, Commander Arce said.

On Relations With U.S.

PA291730 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce has said that Nicaragua wants to have as good relations with the United States as it has with other countries. He made this statement during an interview with the Mexican daily UNOMASUNO. Nicaragua maintains fraternal relations with the USSR, as well as with France, the FRG, and many other countries, he added. Bayardo Arce -- who is also coordinator of the FSLN Political Commission -- noted that one of the strategies of the revolutionary government to overcome its economic problems is the diversification of its trade relations with other nations.

MEASURES TAKEN TO GUARANTEE AIR NAVIGATION

PA270443 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Through the Civil Aeronautics directorate, the Nicaraguan Government has decided to reorganize its airspace to guarantee the safety of civil and commercial aviation. The measure, taken this month, was announced during an unofficial meeting to discuss the establishment of routes through Nicaragua's airspace, held by the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, in Mexico City 21-24 February. Given the current war affecting the country, the measure is intended to defend and protect air navigation and to guarantee the safety of international airlines.

OLYMPIC COMMITTEE CLARIFIES REPORT ON GAMES

PA250445 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Olympic Committee, CON, today denied that it has received financial aid to send our athletes to the Olympics, and it stressed that if it participates the expenses will be paid by our people. In a statement issued today, the CON rejected an international news agency's interpretation of the remarks by (Herman Ricknof) in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on 22 May to the effect that Nicaragua had received $110,000 from the International Olympic Committee to travel to Los Angeles, California.

The denial also stated that it is also untrue, as another news agency has reported, that the Nicaraguan revolutionary government has allocated $110,000 for travel to the Olympics, and that the correct version is that the Nicaraguan authorities estimate that such a figure would have to be allocated to send the national delegation to the Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

IRANIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION PAYS 7-DAY VISIT

PA240444 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] A delegation of the Iranian Government is visiting our country in response to an invitation from Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. As part of the activities planned for their visit, they have met with authorities of the Civil Aeronautics Branch of the Transportation Ministry, in order to reach agreements on aid and technical advice. The delegation headed by (H. Harsarain), assistant to the Iranian deputy minister of transportation for aviation matters, and the directors of the Iranian Airways will stay in Nicaragua for 7 days.

MSGR OBANDO Y BRAVO DENIES MORA'S CHARGES

PA250342 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 19-20 May 84 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Asked about the charges made by journalist Luis Mora to state security officials, Managua Archbishop Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo said last night: "The only purpose of these charges is to try to destroy the church." Msgr Obando, who returned last night with Msgrs Vega and Vilchez after visiting Rome, the United States, and Costa Rica, said that the charges made against him are completely false. Regarding conversations that -- according to Mora -- Msgr Obando held with CTN [Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers] leaders in order to give a homily on 1 May inciting workers to provoke the police at Don Bosco Church, the archbishop denied such charges and explained that he traveled to Rome 7 days prior to 1 May, and that therefore he had not contemplated holding a Eucharist in this church on that day.

Mora Repeats Charges

PA260203 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0051 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Journalist Mora, correspondent for the CIA-owned Radio Impacto, has rejected reports published by LA PRESNA yesterday. He also reiterated that staff at the U.S. Embassy in Managua and members of various political parties attend meetings of LA PRESNA's editorial staff on Mondays. Luis Mora, who worked for the ultrarightist daily LA PRENSA for 4 years, held a press conference with national and international journalists this afternoon. He said that not once was he pressured or mistreated by the authorities that arrested him, much less physically tortured. They have treated me well, he told the journalists.

Mora added that Msgr Obando y Bravo was aware of the plans that the CTN [Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers] had for 1 May. Mora also said clearly that Mr (Callaway), information chief at the Yankee Embassy in Managua, Roger (Glaslow), and U.S. Ambassador in Managua Anthony Quainton himself used to attend LA PRENSA's editorial meetings. He also mentioned the names of several rightist political leaders who attended these

RAMIREZ ANNOUNCES EXPANDED AGRARIAN REFORM

PA272245 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1626 GMT 27 May 84

[Speech by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, at the inauguration of the "Heroes of San Juan del Norte" Regional Agricultural Silo in Santo Tomas, Chontales Department -- live]

[Excerpts] Here, in the first row at this event, we have a group of young combatants who defended the San Juan del Norte position to their last bullet. Later on, counterrevolutionary mercenaries kidnapped these companeros and took them to Costa Rica by force, but the government brought them back to our homeland. They are friends of the heroes who fell in defense of San Juan del Norte, a bastion of our national sovereignty. Therefore, in inaugurating this silo, the revolutionary government and the FSLN have decided to name this new project, which reflects the progress of the revolution, the "San Juan del Norte Heroes" Silo, so that we may all recall their heroic deed and remember every day that it is our duty to defend Nicaragua's sovereignty and national independence. [applause]

This silo reminds us that the revolution is working on a priority task, which -- together with the defense of the fatherland, the military defense of the fatherland -- is the defense of our supplies. This is directly connected to our ability to improve our collection and storage capability. In addition to this improvement, the FSLN has decided to pursue a new policy: the expansion of the agrarian reform in Nicaragua.

This year we will complete a land delivery program that is to include the distribution of approximately 1 million manzanas. The FSLN and the revolutionary government have decided to give top priority, renewed priority, to the large-scale delivery of land to our peasants, particularly in two regions that have been privileged and have become the country's most important: Region Six, consisting of Matagalpa and Jinotega Departments; and Region Five, made up of Chontales and Boaca Departments and the Nueva Guinea area. [applause]

While the revolution gives more land to the peasants; while it makes a greater effort to build projects like this, which means an improved capacity to collect and store the produce of our farms; while we build health centers, schools, and rural housing projects, the counterrevolutionaries, funded by the CIA, are trying to destroy these same things.

There is no lesson in democracy that these genocidal guardsmen can teach us, because the Nicaraguan people already know all about them and are determined to defeat them yet again on the battlefield, to remove them, once and for all, from the history of the free Nicaragua that we will bequeath to new generations of Nicaraguans. We must leave them a new Nicaragua in which there are no Somozist guardsmen. The kind of democracy that the Nicaraguan people have been building since 19 July 1979 is not a democracy in which elections are held simply to comply with some requirement that they be held. It is a democracy in which elections are the culmination of the process that we have begun to build here with the people's blood and sweat. It is a democracy in which the people participate, not only by casting a ballot for a candidate or party but, when the time comes, by involving themselves in agrarian reform cooperatives, in the people's education, in the people's health program, in the vaccination campaigns, in the defense of the fatherland, and in vigilance over the revolution. This is what true democracy means for the Nicaraguans. It is an active democracy, which we wouldn't exchange for any other democracy in the world. [applause]

The right to live in a free and sovereign land without foreign intervention must not be denied to any people or country, regardless of its size and strength. No sovereign nation can renounce this right. By defending the revolution with weapons in hand, we are defending our right to build more silos, health centers, schools, roads, houses, and a new democracy. This is the Sandinist task for today and tomorrow. Viva the heroes of San Juan del Norte! Viva the FSLN! [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Free fatherland [crowd responds: "Or death!"]

RURAL CREDIT OFFICIAL ON PEASANT DEBT, LOANS

PA242327 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 May 84

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Companero Marcelo Mayorga, rural credit manager of the National Development Bank, has reported that to date 290.2 million cordobas owed by peasants have been waived.

[Begin Mayorga recording] So far, 80.8 percent of the peasant debt has been waived. The plan was to waive at the national level 359.1 million cordobas obtained in rural credits by small producers. To date, 290.2 million cordobas or 80 percent have been waived. This waiver is broken down in the following way: We have issued 1,354 debt waiver certificates worth 72.9 million cordobas to production cooperatives and work collectives. The credit and service cooperatives have been granted 2,828 certificates worth 147.4 million cordobas, and individual producers have received 12,799 certificates worth 69.8 million cordobas. There are two regions that have totally finished their waiver program. They are the 2d and 4th Regions, which have issued all the certificates for the programmed amount established in the resolution of the government junta. The 1st Region has carried out 94, almost 95 percent, of this task. It is followed by the 3d Region with 88 percent and the 5th Region with 85 percent. [end recording]

For the 1984-1985 period, the bank will finance 391,059 manzanas of land for an amount of 1,248,400,000 cordobas.

[Begin recording] [Mayorga] For the 1984-1985 period, the rural credit program of the national bank plans to finance 391,059 manzanas of basic grains and other products such as coffee, cotton, sugar, sesame, and vegetables. Specifically, regarding basic grains -- corn, beans, and sorghum -- in 1984-1985 the bank will be financing a total of 244,300 manzanas for the amount of 560 million cordobas.

[Unidentified reporter] By what percentage have the loans increased?

[Mayorga] Last year we financed 287,000 manzanas of all crops, including basic grains, export products, and vegetables. This year we will be financing 391,059 manzanas, which amounts to 103,000 more manzanas than last year. This amounts to a 35-percent increase. Last year, we allocated 834.7 million cordobas to finance these agricultural crops. With the increase in area and the increase in the production costs, this year we will be allocating 1,248,400,000 cordobas, which amounts to a 414 million cordoba or 49-percent increase. [end recording]

CORDOVA RIVAS INAUGURATES RIGHTS GROUP MEETING

PA240419 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Last night Rafael Cordova Rivas, a member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, inaugurated the sixth assembly of the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America [Comision de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos en Centro America -- CODEDECA].

Cordova Rivas stressed that the Nicaraguan people need peace and should have the right to elect the government they want.

Cordova Rivas spoke before more than 40 representatives from the Caribbean, the United States, Central America, Belize, Latin America, and Europe at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua. The meeting will last until next Saturday. Among other topics, the delegates will discuss the refugee problem in Central America, as well as violations of human rights in the region.

Cordova Rivas reiterated that the revolutionary government and the FSLN do not want to go to war, but would do so if necessary to defend our national sovereignty, which is now attacked by the U.S. Government.

CODEDECA President (Carlos Gallardo) expressed the organization's support for the Nicaraguan Government and people in their efforts to consolidate peace in the region. At the same time, he protested the constant violations of human rights in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, noting that a group of Guatemalan students, including the son of the Guatemalan university's rector, has been missing since last week.

ORTEGO SCORES OPPOSITION ELECTORAL ABSTENTION

PA281835 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta, has said that the abstention being proclaimed by leaders of opposition political parties has to be seen as a U.S. Government directive aimed at affecting the Nicaraguan electoral process. Daniel said that the attitude expressed by those who plan to abstain from voting in the 4 November elections is not unintentional, but is a conscious decision. Since December, the opposition political parties have been demanding the lifting of the state of emergency and the holding of a national dialogue that would include former Somozist guards.

Referring to the state of emergency, Commander Ortega reiterated that it exists because there is the danger of direct intervention by U.S. troops. Regarding the electoral process, Daniel Ortega said that the necessary security measures will be implemented for the political parties' campaigns. He said that the Sandinist police will be at the disposal of the Supreme Electoral Council during the elections.

BAYARDO ARCE COMMENTS ON ELECTORAL CALENDAR

PA250430 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 May 84

[Excerpts] The Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] today announced the electoral calendar for the 4 November 1984 elections. Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano, coordinator of the FSLN Political Committee, was present at the ceremony at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center. Asked how the FSLN viewed this decision of the CSE, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano replied to Voz de Nicaragua:

[Begin recording] [Arce Castano] The FSLN considers it appropriate, even though we had proposed through our delegate to the National Assembly of Political Parties that the electoral campaign period should be shorter. We think that the situation of aggression that the Nicaraguan people are being subjected to by the Reagan administration through the CIA and its mercenaries forces our people to devote their greatest efforts to the defense of the nation and the revolution and the reconstruction of the fatherland.

In that sense, we believed that wasting an excessive period in proselytizing campaigns was somewhat out of place in the specific situation that we are experiencing. That is why we had suppor t the initial proposal for the campaign to be just 2 months long, beginning on 1 September. We thought that the maximum amount of time should be used for defense and reconstruction tasks. Now then, if the CSE believes that the majority consensus was for a longer period, we are willing to accept its decision. What we will try to do is to combine our political proselytizing efforts with our people's defense and production tasks.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander, how do you analyze the statement by the Ramiro Sacasa Coordinating Board to the effect that it will not present any candidate until the government and the FSLN fulfill some of the proposals they have made?

[Arce Castano] Well, the FSLN does not have to fulfill anything. In any case, it would be the government, as the institutional representation of the state. We think that is an easy recourse that can be used when one knows that one does not have sufficient strength to participate in a political process such as the one that we are opening. [end recording]

Later, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano explained that if the country's situation remains the same, the state of emergency might be lifted before 8 August 1984, the date when the electoral campaign opens.

On State of Emergency

PA250433 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] The state of national emergency in effect since March 1982 will be lifted before 8 August, the date when the electoral campaign begins. Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano, coordinator of the FSLN Political Committee, said tonight. The FSLN National Directorate member stated this after the Supreme Electoral Tribunal announced the official calendar of the electoral process. The period for registration of presidential and national assembly candidates begins tomorrow.

PARTIES REGISTER WITH CNPP FOR ELECTIONS

PA261701 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 May 84

[Excerpts] The National Council of Political Parties [CNPP] yesterday received from the leaders of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party [PSN] the legal documents that will enable this party to participate in the 4 November elections. Dr Gustavo Tablada, deputy secretary general of the PSN, and Carlos Salgado, a member of the party's Central Committee, presented the documents to CNPP President Hugo Mejia. The following parties have already presented their registration documents: Independent Liberal Party, Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, and PSN. It was learned yesterday that next Monday the Social Christian Party and the FSLN will also present their documents to the CNPP.

PSD PRESIDENT ON PARTY'S OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPLES

PA250123 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 19-20 May 84 p 16

[Excerpts] The National Council of Political Parties (CNPP) has legally recognized the Social Democratic Party, PSD, as a political party.

The following is an interview with PSD President Luis Rivas Leiva by a reporter from LA PRENSA.

LA PRENSA -- Has the PSD appointed its delegate to the CNPP?

Luis Rivas Leiva -- Yes. As soon as the PSD was recognized as a political party, we appointed Evert Bendana as our representative. He is a young lawyer who has begun his career during this phase of the Nicaraguan political life. The PSD has many young members, most of them students and young professionals.

LA PRENSA -- What are the PSD's objectives?

Luis Rivas Leiva -- We want to correct past mistakes and avert the danger we had already foreseen: The implementation of a Marxist-Leninist regime by the FSLN.

The PSD is a democratic and revolutionary organization. It is democratic because it calls for a new society, where each individual can have the opportunity to progress and, as member of the community, be able to participate with responsibility in the political, economic, and social fields. Our party is revolutionary because it struggles to transform the prevailing socio-economic structures into more just and dignified ones.

The PSD's fundamental principles and values are liberty, justice, and solidarity, which we consider indispensable for the full realization of the individual.

LA PRENSA -- Are some of the PSD's founders currently abroad?

Luis Rivas Leiva -- Yes, several of them have gone into exile voluntarily. Some of them are Wilfredo Mantalvan, once PSD secretary general; Mario Alfaro Alvarado, once political secretary; Rodrigo Solorzano, once director of international relations; and Fernando Chamorro, once deputy secretary of foreign relations.

MEDIA LAW CHANGES CAUSE 'CRISIS' IN FPR

PA2500036 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 May 84

[Excerpt] Something of a crisis has emerged within the Patriotic Front of the Revolution [FPR], which is made up of the parties that are allied to the FSLN, as a result of the motion introduced in the State Council yesterday by the Sandinist Armed Forces representative. The motion modifies or totally changes the FPR's draft of the news media law.

As has been reported, the FPR parties had drawn up a draft law that established that the management, guidance, and direction over the social communications media would be left in the hands of a pluralistic and broad entity that would be directly under the government junta. In addition to government institutions, organizations such as the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists and the Association of Newsmen of Nicaragua, APN, made up of the dissident journalists, would be represented in that entity.

In yesterday's session of the State Council, Subcommander Rafael Solis, who represents the Sandinist Armed Forces, introduced a motion establishing that the Interior Ministry will continue to have the power to direct the social communications media.

We received reports today indicating that as a result of this the FPR parties plan to hold an emergency meeting today. The parties allied to the FSLN will adopt a resolution in this meeting.

PASTORA GIVEN 'ULTIMATUM' ON UNITY WITH FDN

PA291951 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1935 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] San Jose, 29 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The political leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] have given ARDE military chief Eden Pastora an ultimatum to either accept unity with the other anti-Sandinist group, the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force], or leave ARDE. ARDE sources have told ACAN-EFE that Pastora (Commander Cero) should give his reply to the unification with the FDN at 1400 (2000 GMT).

The sources said that the decision to challenge Pastora was made last night in a meeting held by Alfonso Robelo of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, Jose Davila of the Christian Democratic Solidarity Front, Brooklyn Rivera of the MISURASATA [Miskito, Sumu, Rama, Sandinist Unity], and Donald Castillo, representative of the workers' branch. Pastora, who heads the Sandino Revolutionary Front, the other ARDE group, is the only one who opposes unification with the FDN, because he believes it is made up of "former Somozist officers."

The U.S.-supported FDN is fighting the Sandinist regime in northern Nicaragua near the Honduran border, while ARDE is fighting in the south, on the border with Costa Rica.

Pastora Demands Robelo Choose

PA292252 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2220 GMT 29 May 84

[Excerpts] San Jose, 29 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Eden Pastora, Nicaragua's "Commander Cero" and military leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), today demanded that Alfonso Robelo, political leader of that same organization, "define his position, either with the Nicaraguan people or on the side of the former Somozist guardsmen of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN)." In an exclusive statement for ACAN-EFE, the veteran guerrilla and former Sandinist interior minister said that Robelo now has a deadline to make his decision, as "warranted by circumstances."

"With or without Robelo, with or without money, I will not capitulate," the commander added, saying that he will go into the mountains of southern Nicaragua to continue the guerrilla struggle until the original Sandinist revolution is restored. ARDE sources told ACAN-EFE that ARDE's political leaders have given Pastora a deadline by which he must agree to unity with the other anti-Sandinist group, the FDN, or quit ARDE.

Eden Pastora contacted ACAN-EFE in San Jose by radio this afternoon.

PASTORA SAID SEEKING HONDURAN 'AUTHORIZATION'

PA252333 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, IPS -- Eden Pastora, leader of the anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, was in Honduras last week to obtain the Honduran Government's authorization to carry out military operations against Nicaragua, military sources have reported unofficially. Pastora arrived at Tegucigalpa's Toncontin Airport, where he met with Armed Forces Chief General Walter Lopez Reyes and other ranking officers.

With offices in San Jose, Costa Rica, ARDE carries out military actions in southern Nicaragua. However, it is currently being plagued by an internal crisis that is threatening to destroy the organization. ARDE spokesmen report that the problem arises because Pastora opposes the decision made by other ARDE leaders to join with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, which is based in Honduras and which has been accused of being composed of members of the former Somozist guard.

The report indicates that Pastora stayed in Honduras for several hours, meeting with Honduran military leaders to argue urgently that his forces need to carry out operations in northern Nicaragua. Pastora is staying in Panama while his struggle has been interrupted in order to negotiate the provision of military supplies for ARDE, whose store has been depleted.

Last week, General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, former chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, made an extensive statement in Miami to the Honduran daily LA PRENSA, indicating that Pastora had earlier asked him for the same thing. The request was denied at the time primarily because of Alvarez Martinez' close ties to the FDN. In that meeting, Pastora reportedly proposed a number of options, even asking for arms and other supplies. Alvarez' refusal was also based on his doubts about Pastora's true ideological commitment, the sources reported. Pastora was Nicaragua's deputy interior and deputy defense minister but broke with the Nicaraguan revolution on 15 April 1982. Alvarez' ouster by his juniors on 31 March made Pastora believe that the new military leaders would listen to his plea. This confidential report was given to IPS. However, the sources did not reveal the results of Pastora's meeting with the military leaders.

PASTORA INTERVIEWED ON ARDE, CUBA, JUNTA

PA251918 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 May 84

[Video interview with Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, leader Eden Pastora by "Special Edition" commentator Mayin Correa; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Correa] Commander, when you arrived in Panama this week several things were said. First we heard that you were here to request asylum not only for your family but for yourself; it was also heard that you were going to meet with Cuban Government officials or that you would be going to Cuba to hold talks there. Despite the fact that this statement was denied by the Cuban Embassy, doubt is still present. We also heard that because of your refusal to join the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] fighting in northern Nicaragua, you have provoked a division among the ARDE leaders in Costa Rica. What can you tell us about all this information?

[Pastora] Most of this information came from ARDE. Unfortunately we are not perfect, and within the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance we have companeros who are rightists, centrists, and leftists. The rightist sector does not want us, and it distorts and manipulates certain ARDE internal matters, such as saying that I am running, that I am here to request asylum, and all those things you mentioned. The truth is that I will never run, and I will never request asylum. I am going to continue the struggle -- the same struggle we began more than 20, 23, 25 years ago against totalitarianism yesterday and against totalitarianism today; against a rightist dictatorship yesterday and against a leftist dictatorship today. We will never give up this fight, even if we do not have enough bullets and even if we have to fight with arrows, spears, 22's, rifles. We will never give up this fight. I have a historic responsibility, and I will continue to bear it as long as I have the strength to do so or until a communist bullet kills me.

Regarding the much-talked about trip to Cuba that these sectors of ARDE are distorting and manipulating, I would like to tell the brother people of Panama and the world that I am killing Cuban communists in southern Nicaragua, the Cuban communists who are killing out peasants. That is the best answer I can give those ARDE politicians. If I have to talk with the Cubans, just as the South Vietnamese [as heard] did with the United States or the United States did with the South Vietnamese, it would be to tell them to leave Nicaragua before we kill all of them. But I am not here for this. I am here, as I already told you, on my way to Venezuela and the United States. I am here to talk with my friends in Panama. I am looking for bullets, bullets, and more bullets. I am looking for boots, uniforms, medicines, and food for the companeros in southern Nicaragua who are holding the democratic, revolutionary, Sandinist -- we are Sandinists -- positions.

The trouble is that within ARDE there are also persons who are not Sandinists, and they do not like us. That is the truth. First of all, there is no division. The alliance remains as solid and monolithic as before, and it will continue so. I therefore deny the statement that ARDE is divided, and I deny the statement that I am the only one that opposes an alliance, without conditions, with the FDN. Jose Davila feels the same way; the workers led by Donald Castillo feel the same way; so do the MISURASATA led by Brooklyn Rivera; and I would dare say that Alfonso Robelo feels the same way. The trouble is that within his party, the MDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Movement], there are some who do not agree with him and who have been pressuring him, but Robelo is fighting back and he, as a person and as an individual, feels the same way we do. I feel safe in saying this as long as Robelo does not deny this publicly or privately.

[Correa] Are all the nine commanders truly communists or are some of them just following the Borge line or the line of those with the most strength? Do they truly believe in communism?

[Pastora] I am going to speak frankly. Those men are not communists. They are nothing. They are dictators and totalitarians. They are Georgians [Georgistas]. The only communist among them, the one who espouses Marxism and Leninism as a science, is Tirado Lopez -- a foreigner. Others are Marxists because they were born in March. If they were truly Marxists they would not do all the stupid things they are doing. We have said many times that we are going to win not because of our capacity but because of their incapacity. They are arrogant. They had a taste of the good life, fell in love with it, and stayed with it. They isolated themselves from the people, from the masses. They are young boys who do not know anything about earning a living.

BRIEFS

CONAPRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- The National Confederation of Professional Associations (CONAPRO) has elected its board of directors for 1984. Andres Zuniga M. was reelected president. The other members elected were Jaime Icabalceta, vice president; Octavio Escobar L., secretary general; Edgard Quintana, deputy secretary; Roberto Pasquier, treasurer; and Manuel Matus Sequiera, deputy treasurer. [Summary] [Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 19-20 May 84 pp 1, 8 PA]

CULTURE MINISTER TO VENICE -- Nicaraguan Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal today left for Venice to attend a conference of America, Asian African culture ministers. The conference will last 2 days and opens on 28 May. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 May 84 PA]

CASTRO PRESIDES OVER BREEDING FARM ANNIVERSARY

FL291856 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] At a ceremony held yesterday afternoon to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Los Naranjos Livestock Breeding Enterprise, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro called upon all Cubans to further develop Cuba's cattle industry. The opening speech was made by Jose Gonzalez Torres, alternate Politburo member [as heard], and director of the enterprise.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] Comrade Fidel has worked many hours at the Los Naranjos Enterprise. His ideas have had a permanent effect over the last 20 years. Many times Fidel has directed the work which included acquisition and development of tropical Holstein cattle, soil conservation, and implementation of policies on the rotation of pastures. Under Fidel's knowledgeable and planned direction the enterprise now has more than 23,000 head of cattle, produces 100 times more milk than it originally produced, and has given Cuba's artifical insemination centers more than 1,000 young bulls of the highest genetic quality. These achievements result from the correct application of policies, resources investment and development, and the unselfish work of men and women. All these factors have contributed in a decisive way to the formation of this revolutionary project. History should record the efforts our commander has made to develop this resource for Cuba.

We could cite innumerable examples of Fidel's personal efforts in developing Cuba's genetic studies. There are many projects which have counted on his presence to further their work. He has devoted many hours of work to the Los Naranjos Enterprise. Suffice it to say that when the Los Naranjos project started, he would visit us at any time of night or day to explain what should be done. That is why we can justifiably say that the founder of Cuba's genetic studies and our enterprise, and the most active worker in this field has been our beloved commander in chief. [end recording]

Jose Gonzalez Torres presented Fidel Castro with a certificate bestowing on him the distinction of Founder of Los Naranjos and a book on the work performed at this enterprise over the past 20 years.

After the presentation, Luis Simeon Salinas, second secretary of the National Agricultural and Livestock Workers Union [SNTA], read the resolution designating the Los Naranjos project model enterprise for 3 consecutive years, and also candidate standard-bearer of model units. Fidel personally presented the awards to Jose Gonzalez Torres.

Minister of Agriculture Adolfo Diaz summarized the ceremony and recalled how the revolution, through the Agrarian Reform Law and the deep and rapid reforms which the law brought about in Cuba, made it possible for this enterprise to be successful.

[Begin Diaz recording] Today, along with Los Naranjos workers, we have present here the Agriculture Ministry delegates from all provinces and the 127 directors of Cuba's cattle enterprises.

Everyone present at this ceremony has come not only to express with their presence the admiration and respect felt for this work center -- standard-bearer of our cattle industry -- but also to say that we, the country's cattlemen -- filled with admiration and emotion by the colossal development effort guided, encouraged, and carried out by you -- on behalf of all work centers they manage and together with Los Naranjos comrades, wish, on this memorable occasion, to pledge before you, commander in chief, that we will work without respite until the day when we will be able to say to you: Commander in chief, the Cuban cattle industry, for which you have worked so hard, has attained the level of technical, productive, and economic achievement you expect from it. The Cuban cattle industry has fulfilled its obligation to you. Until that day, commander in chief, you can be sure that we will work without respite until the job is completed. [end recording]

Minister Adolfo Diaz said the Los Naranjos Enterprise had not yet reached the peak of its fast-paced development, and that it will continue to develop at the same pace as that of the revolution which created the enterprise. The enterprise should continue to grow until it reaches a total of 32,740 head of cattle and 180 livestock buildings. Diaz added that after the investing process ends and the project begins to grow, the enterprise should begin producing 140,000 liters of milk daily, more than 51 million liters of milk yearly, and slaughtering more than 2,500 fatted bulls a year.

Adolfo Diaz also talked about Cuba's general agriculture development strategy, which Fidel Castro outlined. He said that over a 25-year period, Cuba has had great success in its cattle development policies. Diaz emphasized that milk is a specialized part of the cattle industry and that a large infrastructure has been created around it. Diaz said that more than 130 cattle enterprises exist in Cuba, including 80 dairies, 33 breeding farms, and 13 for slaughtering purposes. He said many technical engineers and workers are assigned to this important task, and that what had been wasteland is now used to raise cattle. Diaz underscored that the revolution has worked toward bettering the livestock workers' living conditions.

A few minutes before the ceremony ended, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro hailed Los Naranjos workers.

[Begin Castro recording] I want to add a few words to what has already been said to extend our deepest and most sincere congratulations to the workers, technicians, cadres, and leaders of this enterprise for the work which they have done up to this point. [end recording]

Fidel called for a greater impetus to the cattle industry and that our land be more efficiently used to accomplish this purpose. He said that as a rule, Cuba will continue to specialize in the production of milk, and that more meat will also be produced because a selective policy will be applied to the dairy industry. Fidel said that the example of writing a book about the Los Naranjos Enterprise should be followed by other enterprises because it is a valuable contribution. He said the goal of being a model unit, such as the Los Naranjos Enterprise, should be followed by all of Cuba's enterprises. Fidel called for a special effort to win the battle of cattle development.

[Begin Castro recording] Now what we must do is to be more selective of our livestock. We must conduct genetic studies keeping in mind each location's actual conditions. Each location is different. Some locations present more difficulties in raising cattle because of warmer weather while others are cooler and have better conditions for raising cattle. For this reason, I ask all enterprise directors to pay special attention to these factors, because these ideas and decisions have come from experience. And, experience shows us that we must be more rigorously selective. I am sure that we will see better results. [end recording]

Fidel also said that measures should be adopted in each sector so that the cattle industry benefits. He stressed that Cuba must make a leap in the next few years, and this will demand a special effort.

RAUL CASTRO CONGRATULATES FAR CIVILIAN WORKERS

FL261306 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 May 84

[Excerpt] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee, has congratulated FAR civilian workers who have achieved vanguard status for their successes in production, services, and education during 1983. This special recognition was conveyed from Raul by Jose Antonio Roque, secretary general of the National FAR Civilian Workers Union, who spoke at a formal ceremony in Topes de Collantes, Sancti Spiritus.

REPORTAGE ON FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA'S VISITS

Visits Algeria

For Algerian media reportage on Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca's 19-22 May visit to Algiers, including his arrival statement and communique detailing his visit, see the Algeria section of the 30 May Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT.

Meets Italian Foreign Minister

FL231744 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] The foreign ministers of Italy and Cuba, Giulio Andreotti and Isidoro Malmierca, respectively, held talks this morning about the situation in Central America. The Cuban foreign minister is making an official visit to Italy. The Italian foreign minister reiterated the support of his government for the Contadora Group in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Central America.

In Tanzania

FL251554 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Meetings with Tanazania's President Julius Nyerere, Prime Minister Salim Ahmad Salim, and other high officials are on today's agenda for Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca in Dar es Salaam. Malmierca arrived in the Tanzanian capital last Thursday on a 2-day official visit.

Malmierca traveled to Dar es Salaam from Rome, the Italian capital, where he held talks with his counterpart, Giulio Andreotti, who accepted an invitation to visit Cuba. During the Malmierca-Andreotti talks, focusing on the Central American problems, the Italian minister reiterated his support for the Contadora Group's peace efforts. Andreotti said Italy is willing to sponsor all efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful, negotiated peace in Central America.

Meets Tanzanian Leader

FL261452 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 May 84

[Text] Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere has held an exchange of opinions with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca in Dar es Salaam. Malmierca is in Tanzania on an official visit. He gave Nyerere a message from Cuban President Fidel Castro. During the meeting, the Cuban foreign minister said that the recent meeting of the Frontline States in the Tanzanian city of Arusha was a severe blow to the enemies of the struggle for liberation in southern Africa. Nyerere said that solidarity between the nations had been confirmed as had their firm pledge to fight for the liberation of the continent.

The Frontline States include Angola, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca is in Tanzania on an official visit as part of a tour of several countries in Africa and Europe.

Tanzanian Reportage

For Tanzanian coverage of the visit to Dar es Salaam by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, including his talks with Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere and a report on the cooperation communique issued, see the Tanzania subsection of the East Africa section of the 29 May Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT.

Arrives in Sweden

FL281314 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Cuba's Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, upon arriving in Stockholm, Sweden, on an official and friendly visit, has said that Cuba is ready to contribute toward finding a political solution to Central America's problems, but that the main obstacle preventing such action continues to be the Reagan administration's aggressive and interventionist policies.

At a dinner which Sweden's Foreign Minister Lennart Bodstrom held in Malmierca's honor, Malmierca remarked on the seriousness of the present international situation as the world faces the danger of nuclear conflagration. Malmierca stressed the necessity of fighting for peace and said that on this point both Sweden and Cuba agree. He underscored the necessity of continuing the struggle against the ignominious apartheid regime, adding that there was a need to strengthen support given to South African and Namibian liberation movements, respectively the African National Congress and SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization].

Meets Swedish Foreign Minister

FL292003 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Stockholm -- The foreign ministers of Sweden and Cuba, Lennart Bodstrom and Isidoro Malmierca, respectively, have discussed the situation in Central America and South Africa. The preceding evening, Bodstrom welcomed Malmierca with a dinner at which they exchanged impressions on their excellent bilateral relations. Bodstrom again stated that this country will continue to support the efforts of the Contadora Group to attain a negotiated settlement of Central American problems.

Meets With Sweden's Palme

PA291750 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme received Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca in Stockholm. Malmierca is in Sweden's capital on an official 2-day visit. Palme and Malmierca analyzed the current international political situation, particularly that of Central America, the Caribbean, and South Africa. The Cuban foreign minister greeted Palme on behalf of Cuban head of state Fidel Castro. Malmierca had previously met with Swedish Foreign Minister Lennart Bodstrom. One of several topics discussed was the tense situation created because of the emplacement of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

JUSTICE MINISTER SIGNS AGREEMENT IN POLAND

FL241546 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1416 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Cuban Justice Minister Juan Escalona and his Polish counterpart Lech Domeradzki signed a cooperation agreement for the period 1985-86 today in Warsaw. The two justice ministers held a broad exchange of information on socialist legal matters in Cuba and Poland. Juan Escalona and Lech Domeradzki also studied preparations for the 8th session of the conference of justice ministers of socialist countries that will take place in Havana in November.

The Cuban justice minister, who earlier visited Bulgaria and Hungary, also met in Warsaw with Miroslaw Milewski, member of the Politburo of the Polish United Workers' Party. Juan Escalona discussed the perspectives of bilateral cooperation in the legal field with the Polish leader.

LEADERS COMMEMORATE AFRICA DAY, OAU ANNIVERSARY

FL250130 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, Central Committee member, Council of State member, and president of the Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples [MPSP], has presided over a ceremony held to commemorate Africa Day and the 21st anniversary of the founding of the OAU. Cuba's solidarity with the peoples of Namibia, South Africa, and Western Sahara, and with African liberation movements was emphasized in a statement issued by the MPSP and signed by Severo Aguirre.

Pelegrin Torras, Cuba's vice foreign minister; Rafael Ruiz, official of the Central Committee's General Department of Foreign Relations; and Laureano Cardoso Toledo, chief of the Ministry of Foreign Relation's Sub-Saharan Africa Division, presided over the ceremony along with Severo Aguirre. Cardoso Toledo gave a speech on the African movement's history and the peoples' long struggle for independence.

SIXTO BATISTA SPEAKS AT AFRICA SOLIDARITY EVENT

FL291658 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Division General Sixto Batista, alternace member of the Politburo, gave the closing speech at the main commemoration of Solidarity With Africa Day, held yesterday at the auditorium of the Communications Ministry. In his speech, he said: For the Cuban people, solidarity with the peoples of Africa is a principle and a duty that we shall never fail to fulfill. The event was organized by the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples. Jesus Montane and Armando Acosta, both alternate members of the Politburo, and other party leaders presided at the ceremony.

Further on Batista Remarks

PA292025 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] On summing up the main event on the occasion of the commemoration of the Solidarity With Africa Day held in Havana, Division General Sixto Batista, alternate of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, said: For the Cuban people, the solidarity with African peoples is a principle and a duty we will never fail to fulfill.

Batista mentioned the dramatic social and economic situation of the African peoples, and stressed that it is undeniable that this situation brings about a process of change from which the African peoples' struggle against racism, Zionism, and imperialism cannot be separated. Batista denounced U.S. aid to South Africa and Israel because of their policies of aggression against African and Arab countries and said that, for this reason, it is necessary to know our real enemies -- who will try to help us and who will try to destroy us.

Ethiopian Ambassador to Cuba Aemero Wondimagegnehu said that the event was evidence of the Cuban state and people's solidarity with African countries.

AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA ON AFRICAN PROBLEMS

PA280516 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] Francisco Cabrera Gonzalez, Cuban ambassador to Ethiopia, has declared that his country supports the decisions of international organizations in the search for an effective solution to Africa's problems. In a speech at the 10th Ministerial Conference of the Economic Commission for Africa, which is being held in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, he stressed that Cuba's cooperation with many states on the continent demonstrates its interest in helping to solve their problems.

Cabrera Gonzalez asserted that international economic relations are in a difficult stage, provoked both by the impact of the capitalist economic crisis on the underdeveloped countries and by the discriminatory, coercive, and aggressive policies and practices of the Western powers, led by the United States. The Cuban diplomat said that the Continent of Africa, perhaps more than any other, has suffered the onslaught of colonial exploitation. He came out against the fierce South African policy and in favor of a definitive abolition of the loathsome practice of apartheid.

FERNANDEZ MELL MEETS WITH NICARAGUAN DELEGATION

FL252230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Oscar Fernandez Mell, Central Committee member and president of the People's Government of the City of Havana Province Assembly, met with Sandinist Commander Monica Baltodano, Nicaragua's minister of the Secretariat of Coordination, and her delegation. Faustino Perez, Central Committee member and chief of the Office for Servicing Local People's Government Organs, was also at the meeting. Fernandez Mell gave Baltodano a brief rendition on various [word indistinct] matters. The Sandinist delegation had been invited to visit Cuba by the Office for Servicing Local People's Government Organs.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR VISITS INDUSTRIAL SITES

FL242122 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2012 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Konstantin Katushev and Soviet economic adviser Yevgeniy (Staroverov) have visited several industrial areas in Matanzas Province. They also visited a supertanker construction site where they met with Cuban and Soviet workers who described the construction process to the officials. Later, the officials visited the Matanzas Province rayon factor, employing 1,063 workers, which produces rayon belts for tires, and thread, surgical cotton, and other products for the chemical industry. Katushev and his delegation wished the Matanzas Province workers success in fulfilling their work obligations.

JOINT COOPERATION MEETING UNDER WAY WITH MEXICO

FL241152 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Sessions of the third meeting of the Cuban-Mexican Intergovernmental Working Group for Economic and Industrial Cooperation have gotten under way in Havana. Hector Rodriguez Llompart, Cuban minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Francisco Labastida, Mexican secretary of energy, mines, and parastate industry, are presiding over the sessions, which will conclude with the signing of a protocol. Subjects for discussion at the meeting will be chemicals, fertilizers, petroleum, the steelworking industry, transportation, construction, and computation.

REAGAN BLAMED FOR CREATING HEALTH SYSTEM CRISIS

FL252020 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1820 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] President Ronald Reagan's administration has created a crisis in the U.S. health system by burdening the sick with too much of its cost and allowing the medical-industrial complex to increase its earnings. A report by the National Health Code [Codigo de Salud Nacional] explains that budget priorities mean a greater cash outlay for all U.S. people and reduced access to medical services. The study states that cuts of billions of dollars taken from federal medical assistance programs, added to previous cuts, hit the aged, the poor, the unemployed, and low-paid workers particularly hard. The U.S. health system causes millions of citizens to live in constant fear of sickness because of the lack of a national health plan.

Despite the critical situation of the U.S. health system, Ronald Reagan has struck it the hardest blow by reducing medical assistance programs by more than (?$13) billion during the period 1982-1985. Starting in 1981, the death rate for children increased in (?some) states. In 47 states, physicians had to reduce attention given to mothers and children.

In recent years, the process of placing the health system in private hands has accelerated and the number of private hospitals has increased by 72 percent. It is estimated that by the end of the decade 20 percent of all medical installations will belong to the private sector. While these dramatic facts endanger the health of U.S. residents, the medical-industrial complex is rapidly increasing its earnings.

COMMENTARY EXAMINES U.S. ACTIONS IN C. AMERICA

FL251848 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1135 GMT 25 May 84

[International commentary by Javier Rodriguez of PRENSA LATINA and Francisco Villaneuva of the Tele Rebelde staff -- live]

[Text] [Villanueva] Good morning comrades. The approval by the U.S. Congress of almost $62 million in emergency military aid for the Salvadoran regime is strongly linked to a propaganda campaign mounted by the Reagan administration dealing with democracy and human rights in that Central American country.

One could say that this campaign before the rigged elections in El Salvador, in which the U.S. Administration, through the CIA, began to direct and finance its candidate, Jose Napoleon Duarte. Everyone knows that the CIA spent more than $2 million on the election propaganda campaign for Duarte trying to make him seem like a clean individual who had nothing to do with all the problems of the death squads and murders and make him appear to be a champion of democracy. But despite this campaign by the Reagan administration, world public opinion is aware of Duarte's responsibility in all the murders that occurred in El Salvador in recent years.

All these propaganda efforts culminated in Duarte's visit to the United States even before he takes office, because he takes office on 1 June...

[Rodriguez] July. [correcting Villanueva]

[Villanueva] ... and nevertheless, they extended him all the prerogatives usually reserved for a sitting president.

[Rodriguez] Yes. In fact, Villanueva, I believe that it would be interesting to study on a global basis the results of the resolutions passed **yesterday in** the U.S. House of Representatives. This resolution grants $62 million more for the Salvadoran war, for aggression by the Salvadoran regime against the Salvadoran people. Well, I believe that it only serves to unnecessarily prolong the suffering of the Salvadoran people and that despite all the U.S. efforts, the popular rebellion in that country will not permit itself to be crushed.

But, all this is the culmination, as you said, of a very well-mounted propaganda campaign in an attempt to wash the face of the Salvadoran Government. The campaign is being complemented by a few agreements such as those made last night with the dismissal from office of the chief of the Treasury Police, one of the repressive organizations of the government. This campaign clearly denies the fact that Napoleon Duarte for many years had the primary responsibility for the negative things that were happening there in El Salvador.

[Villanueva] OK. You point out that it has to do with the Treasury Police, but in the case, for example, of Minister of Defense Vides Casanova, (?Duarte) in effect confirmed him.

[Rodriguez] For that reason it is just a part of a (?propaganda) campaign. But anyway, getting back to what we said, we should analyze on a global basis the events that occurred there in the House of Representatives. There were three resolutions: the one granting the $62 million to El Salvador, and two others, one in which the representatives came out against the sending of U.S. troops to El Salvador and Nicaragua and another, which evidently constituted a big defeat for Ronald Reagan's foreign policy by denying the $29 million that the U.S. Administration had requested to continue financing the anti-Sandinist counterrevolutionary groups. This was totally rejected by the House and I believe that these agreements form a kind of conclusion to one more chapter of the confrontation that has been going on for some time between the President Ronald Reagan's administration and the Congress over Central America.

Now, why is there a confrontation? It is a good idea to delve a little deeper into this. Initially, Reagan, for a long time, has shown absolute contempt for Congress' opinions regarding his foreign policy -- his militaristic policy. Voices have been raised pointing out the danger of the direction taken by the current U.S. Administration, in some cases, with sincere concern, and in others, with the fear that this U.S. policy might lead to a generalization of the war in Central America or to a new Vietnam for the United States in Central America and, moreover, might have an effect on peace in the world as it is already doing. In other words, all of this has been the end of one more chapter in this war between Congress and the President of the United States.

[Villanueva] Regarding El Salvador, there is also an event that is being manipulated these days and it is that trial of the five National Guardsmen who are accused of the murders of four U.S. nuns in December. We must point out that this trial, which was delayed for more than 3 years -- nearly 3 and 1/2 years -- comes up now and is carried out quickly. It is also good to point out that there was $20 million that was frozen in the budget for this fiscal year, which ends in September of this year.

This $20 million was tied up along with some military aid until this trial was resolved. Recently a U.S. television journalist pointed out that he was shocked that U.S. policy toward El Salvador was a function of the results of the trial for the killing of four nuns -- it is very proper to hold a trial, we are not saying that it should not have been done, but there were 40,000 people murdered and nothing was done to find the individuals who were guilty of these killings.

[Rodriguez] But a more interesting factor regarding the trial was statements made yesterday by members of families of the nuns, who reported that they had been subjected to pressure by the State Department not to implicate high officials of the regime and the defense minister himself, Eugenio Vides Casanova, as the brains behind the crime.

OK, I wanted to say something with regard to the refusal by Congress to approve $29 million for the anti-Sandinist counterrevolutionaries. It seems incredible that in the faces of adverse public opinion, attempts are being made to continue supplying funds for this war against Nicaragua, a country that has normal diplomatic relations with the United States, and that the most elementary norms of international relations -- relations between two countries -- are being violated.

I believe we must avoid being naive in this matter -- that is, the Congress, the House, is denying the $29 million, but we have a long history of maneuvers that the Reagan administration has carried out in this area by supplying secretly or through other parts of the budget the money which has allowed the installation, the maintenance, and the operation of this whole group of counterrevolutionary camps in Honduran territory and thus supporting the almost daily attacks against Nicaraguan territory. It is a secret to no one; they, themselves, have admitted it, the counterrevolutionaries themselves have spoken about it, the U.S. press has reported it, that great quantities of money, in addition to the amounts that are publicly requested, are being sent for this covert war, as they call it, but there is nothing covert about it, which has really brought grief to Nicaragua and is of concern to world opinion.

[Villanueva] Independent of the measures taken in Congress, it has been stated that any law obstructing the so-called covert operations against Nicaragua would be vetoed, so that the President insists on his militaristic policy against Nicaragua.

[Rodriguez] Of course. He is even ready to veto this law, which would mean that it would be necessary to bring up again the matter of El Salvador because the two items are part of the same resolution -- it would be necessary to discuss again the matters relating to El Salvador to force Congress to approve the items dealing with the anti-Sandinist counterrevolutionaries. In other words, the U.S. Government at no time renounces the continuation of this war against Nicaragua. What is more, the President of the United States himself called the counterrevolutionaries in Honduras freedom fighters.

[Villanueva] The shameful thing is that the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas O'Neill said that these counterrevolutionary bands were rapists, murderers, and bums. The contradictions were quite strong in Congress.

[Rodriguez] Therefore, we cannot hope that after this resolution against supplying more funds to the counterrevolutionaries, this situation will be resolved or the United States will halt this activity. It will continue through third countries and through other parties to use secret CIA funds in this effort which endangers peace not only in Central America but in the entire world.

NICARAGUA-COSTA RICA BORDER COMMISSION INSTALLED

PA280051 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] The installation of the Supervision and Prevention Commission at the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border clearly demonstrates the two governments' firm desire for peace, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto declared. During the ceremony to install the commission, D'Escoto stressed that no matter how much capacity to exert pressure those who are trying to divide the two nations may have, the conscience and Central Americanist feelings of the two governments and the Latin American solidarity expressed through the efforts of the Contadora Group are even greater.

He categorically stressed Nicaragua's willingness to preserve and deepen the historic fraternal ties with Costa Rica, within a context of the strictest respect for the fundamental principles of international law. With this ceremony, we reaffirm our wish to strengthen peace and friendship in Central America, because this contributes to mutual understanding and confidence, D'Escoto said.

In his responding speech, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez remarked that the commission that has been installed in the border area has taken on a great responsibility regarding the relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. He said that it is to be hoped that the commission will bring an end to the border incidents and preserve peace. He added that the Contadora Group, whose members are a part of the commission, has had the rare virtue of eliciting unanimous and enthusiastic approval from countries and parties that are politically and ideologically dissimilar.

Holds First Meeting

PA280115 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 May 84

[Text] The Supervision and Prevention Commission on the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica has held its first meeting in Pocosol, Costa Rica, while scheduling another meeting in Managua on Thursday.

At the end of the brief meeting, Johnny Campos, Costa Rica's deputy public security minister, reported that the two countries reviewed the control that they have over their common border. Campos, who represents his government on this commission, disclosed that Nicaragua presented a draft regulation for the work of this commission, which will be examined at the Managua meeting.

When foreign newsmen asked him about the presence of CIA agents in Costa Rica, Campos said that he knew nothing about any activities in his country by that espionage agency and maintained that Costa Rica is not being used by counterrevolutionary organizations.

Meanwhile, Nicaraguan Commander Roberto Calderon, who is also a member of this commission, as is Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera, disclosed on Saturday that the so-called Democratic Revolutionary Alliance led by traitor Eden Pastora is preparing a new provocative act on the two nations' border.

Jorge Urbina, Costa Rica's deputy foreign minister, is that country's alternate delegate to the commission. The Contadora Group appointed Ambassadors Reynaldo Rivera of Panama, Rafael Zapata Luigi of Venezuela, Maria Luisa Leal of Mexico, and (Gil Miller Payo Jaramillo) of Colombia as its representatives.

COMMENTARY REVIEWS FMLN'S TERRITORIAL GAINS

PA291411 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 28 May 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Despite the massive military support that the U.S. Government is giving to the Salvadoran regime, it has not been able to slow down the advance of the FMLN guerrilla forces. In the past 3 years of revolutionary war, the situation in this Central American country has become untenable to the oligarch-military clique that is misgoverning the country. The only explanation for its survival is the U.S. Government's military support, which is increased every day to prevent the regime's final collapse as a result of the continuous and demolishing blows dealt by the rebel forces. In 3 years of war, the FMLN has virtually destroyed an army, inflicting more than 16,000 dead, wounded, and prisoners on the Armed Forces. The Salvadoran people's military vanguard controls more than 5,000 square km of Salvadoran territory, 70 municipalities, and 80 percent of the military strategic territory, from which it can maneuver and exercise pressure on vital zones.

In the northern part of the country, the Army already has only weak and limited control in two departments: Cabanas and Santa Ana. Two department capitals, San Francisco Gotera and Chalatenango, are surrounded by guerrilla territory, and the soldiers are able to hold on to them only by permanently maintaining almost 3,000 troops there. Control of the greater part of the strategic hills and the mountain range in the northern part of El Salvador places the FMLN at a total topographic advantage over the Army, which little by little is being forced to defend the central part of the country, where the center of the economy and main cities are located.

On reaching the shores of Rio Lempa, taking the town of Nuevo Eden de San Juan, and forcing the enemy to abandon the position with two successive sudden attacks, the guerrilla forces now control all of the northeastern part of the country. After these actions, and after expanding the guerrilla forces' areas of operation from Chalatenango and Guazapa toward Cuscatlan and Cabanas, another departmental capital, Sensuntepeque, is beginning to be threatened after being practically surrounded on all sides.

Territorial control, the recovery of war materiel, and the wearing down of the dictatorship Army's strength and equipment, are the fundamental expression of the revolutionary military advance. In 1 year of war, from June 1982 to June 1983, the FMLN managed to control a fifth of the country and destroy almost a third of the Salvadoran Army. Since then, this control has increased. An extensive area of the coast, the Jucuaran-Intipuca mountain range, is already free of enemy forces since the Army lost the Jucuaran-Chirilagua positions in the southeast. This provides the FMLN with a solid rearguard to pressure and fight from two directions -- north and south -- for the strategic Tecapa-Chinameca mountain range.

In the important Chalatenango Department, the guerrillas control almost 30 municipalities, and the enemy's presence is reduced to the department capital and the hydroelectric dams. In all the eastern part of El Salvador, 48 of the 86 municipalities already do not have enemy garrisons or military positions, and most of the latter are in zones controlled by the rebels. Of the remaining municipalities, at least 10 are of little importance and are defend by paramilitary groups. In response to this military situation, the United States is making increasingly greater efforts to try to prevent the regime's fall, while it dangerously advances toward a direct invasion, with a view to protecting its own interests in that nation. However, none of the imperialists' efforts will prevent the Salvadoran people's final liberation.

PART OF NICARAGUAN STATE OF EMERGENCY TO REMAIN

PA270435 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 May 84

[Special report by Francisco Orizarri, PRELA correspondent in Managua]

[Text] The countdown that will lead to the 4 November elections for a president and a 90-member national assembly began this Friday, when the doors were opened for the political parties that will participate in the elections to register their candidates. Of the 10 parties that are legally recognized by the National Assembly of Political Parties, 4 that have revolutionary ideologies have confirmed their participation in the elections; the others, mostly representing the extreme right and moderate opposition, insist on several conditions before they will participate.

Some of their demands, including an end to the state of emergency, have received oral replies from high-level government officials and FSLN members. For example, the state of emergency will be lifted after the electoral campaign begins on 8 August, through it is taken for granted that it will be retained in certain areas that are affected by U.S.-directed and financed counterrevolutionary activities, which must maintain constant military mobilization. Official sources indicate that information on military matters will also continue to be censored, while it is possible that certain restrictions affecting the country's economy, which has been gravely affected by Washington's terrorist and destabilizing campaign, will remain in effect.

The registration of candidates will conclude on 25 July; 2 days later, Nicaraguan citizens with the legal right to vote must register with the voters' registry during a 72-hour period.

Thus, everything will be ready so that between 8 August and 31 October, 12 weeks of electoral campaigning can be carried out; the participating political parties will be able to explain their political platforms and government plans. Many experts in this capital believe that most of the extreme rightist parties will finally withdraw from the elections, although others doubt this, saying that such a decision would constitute their political demise.

The next 2 months, during which the parties must register their candidates, will be decisive for some of the parties, which must choose between political independence and submission to pressure from the Reagan administration, which hopes to discredit the legitimacy and honesty of Nicaragua's elections while it pursues its warmongering goals and tries to oust the Sandinist government through military intervention.

MEXICAN ENVOY FORSEES HIGHER INTEREST RATES

PA260450 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Jorge Espinosa de los Reyes, Mexican ambassador to the United States, said that U.S. interest rates will increase again this year. At a press conference held in Mexico City, the diplomat added that the international financial system will not be able to resolve the problem of the developing countries' foreign debt with traditional methods.

Espinosa de los Reyes also said that without a trade recovery and a solution for the debt problem, the United States will enter a recession in 2 or 3 years. In conclusion, the Mexican ambassador to the United States said that the underdeveloped countries' foreign debt and their inability to cancel it is the most serious problem faced by the international financial system.

BOSCH ON BREAK IN IMF TALKS, PETROLEUM TRANSFER

FL281500 Santo Domingo Radio Popular in Spanish 0930 GMT 28 May 84

[Text] Leader of the Dominican Liberation Party [PLD] Dr Juan Bosch has said that the PLD will not back President Salvador Jorge Blanco's government and that the suspension of the IMF accord is part of a government plan to shift petroleum to the foreign exchange parallel market. Bosch said the government would not break off IMF negotiations and warned that its only objective is to seek support from political parties and business and labor organizations to justify the transfer of petroleum to the parallel market.

Bosch said the PLD would have nothing to do with a government which assumed a position without considering the PLD or anyone else. He stressed that President Jorge Blanco should have asked for support from the Dominican people when starting IMF negotiations in 1982. Bosch added that there is no possible way of definitely breaking off IMF negotiations and that those who govern the country had the responsibility of knowing this, because the Dominican Republic is part of world affairs. Bosch said that under these conditions there is no justification for suspending the IMF accord, and that the suspension is a ruse to gain the support of political parties, employer associations, and unions to justify transferring petroleum to the foreign exchange parallel market.

PENA GOMEZ CALLS FOR PESO 'REVALUATION'

FL231936 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 18 May pp 1, 10

[By Saul Pimentel]

[Excerpts] The leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) yesterday spoke in favor of a "revaluation" of the Dominican peso and a joint action by the countries of Latin America to confront the problem of the foreign debt. Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez said that the countries of the area should adopt an attitude similar to that of the government of Raul Alfonsin, who announced that it was impossible to pay the Argentine debt, which was about to cause international bankruptcy.

In Pena Gomez' judgement, the parity of the Dominican peso with the dollar "only exists in the Constitution of the Republic and in the fictions of our domestic trade, when the Central Bank gives the value of $1 to 1 peso." He said: I believe that sooner or later, it will be necessary to revalue the peso. In this case, it will not be devaluing it because it is already effectively devalued.

BRIEFS

NEW FINANCE MINISTER -- President Salvador Jorge Blanco has appointed (Millen Igurich) the Dominican Republic's new minister of finance. He is replacing Jose Santos Taveras, who has been designated governor of the Central Bank. [Text] [Santo Domingo Radio Popular in Spanish 0930 GMT 16 May 84 FL]

NEW AMBASSADOR TO GREECE -- Athens -- The new ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Greece, Victor Gomez Berges, yesterday presented his credentials to Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis. Present at the ceremony were Vice Foreign Minister (Jakamandis) and the secretary general of the Greek Presidency. Gomez Berges is also ambassador to the Vatican and Cyprus. [Excerpt] [Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 May 84 FL]

GRENADA

SOURCES SAY ELECTIONS MAY BE HELD IN NOVEMBER

FL281720 Bridgetown CANA in English 1927 GMT 26 May 84

[By George Worme]

[Excerpt] St George's, Grenada, May 26 (CANA) -- Grenadians eligible to vote in elections planned for year end will receive identification cards from next week, Supervisor of Elections Roy Chasteau said. He also announced that a total of 42,929 persons have been registered to vote and enumeration had been completed in Carriacou and Petit Martinique, two Grenadine ward islands.

Political sources have said elections might be held in November. They would be the first since 1976. Persons who are 18 years old before September 1 are eligible to vote.

Chasteau said those persons who are enumerated when the exercise began at the end of March would definitely be getting their identification cards next week. He said this would be done in all 15 constituencies by registration officers and it was hoped that the rest of eligible voters would be presented with their cards shortly afterwards.

PARTY REPORTEDLY FORMED BY BISHOP ASSOCIATES

FL291202 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] From Grenada there are reports that colleagues of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop are forming a new political party named for him. Reports say the new party was founded Sunday night at a ceremony marking what would have been Mr Bishop's 40th birthday. The new party is called the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. Mr Bishop and five cabinet ministers and associates were killed in a military takeover by rival factions within his New Jewel Movement last October.

IDEOLOGICAL PURGE AT INFORMATION MINISTRY

FL251648 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] In St George's, Grenada, government sources say an ideological purge has taken place in the Ministry of Information, resulting in the dismissal of 10 employees at the state-run Radio Grenada. The sources say among those dismissed were (Harold Fasadi) and (Michael MacMillan), as well as a number of technicians and operators.

Grenada's interim government gave no official version of the firings. Last December, the interim government chairman, Nicholas Brathwaite, said the Ministry of Information was, in his words, packed with people who are not genuine workers but are committed to an alien ideological cause. The island's radio station, known before last year's coup as Radio Free Grenada, was bombed and destroyed during the October U.S. military intervention. The station now operates out of makeshift headquarters.

HAITI

PEACE RESTORED AFTER RIOTING IN GONAIVES

FL252246 Bridgetown CANA in English 2230 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Port-au-Prince, May 25 (CANA-REUTER) -- Militarised police sent from the capital have restored order after two days of rioting in the north Haitian city of Gonaives, diplomatic sources said.

The sources said that Western embassy observers sent to the scene had failed to establish whether there had been deaths in the disturbances, but they did see schools and warehouses being looted.

Although Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, riots are rare, the sources said. Life President Jean-Claude Duvalier showed his concern by sending at least one cabinet member, Social Affairs Minister Theodore Achille, to the scene.

Some rioters shouted anti-government slogans, but the sources said the motivation for the riots appeared to be hunger. Seasonal rains have not yet arrived and there are serious fears of a crop failure in Gonaives, one of the driest places in Haiti, the sources said. The sources said Achille spoke to the rioters in an effort to halt the disturbances, but order was not restored until police moved in violently. Several people were injured, the sources said.

The return to the country in recent months of some opposition politicans indicates that Duvalier may be slightly slackening his iron grip on power, the sources said. Duvalier has promised to legalise the activities of political parties, but opposition leaders say that they are not prepared to come into the open until they have constitutional guarantees to do so.

2 KILLED IN DEMONSTRATIONS IN CAPE-HAITIEN

PA292118 Paris AFP in Spanish 2054 GMT 29 May 84

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 29 May (AFP) -- Two people were killed today in Cape-Haitien, the second largest city in Haiti, 250 km north of the principal port, during demonstrations staged in that city, according to medical sources contacted by telephone by AFP. Several persons who sustained bullet wounds were being treated in the Justinien Hospital of Cape-Haitien, hospital sources there confirmed.

GUADELOUPE DEPORTS ALLEGED HAITIAN PLOTTERS

FL251628 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Guadeloupe has deported 26 members of a group of alleged Haitian plotters. Thirty-nine Haitians were arrested 3 weeks ago at a commando training camp in the French portion of the island of Saint-Martin. French authorities say the group was plotting the overthrow of Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier. Guadeloupe's attorney general says 26 of the alleged plotters have been deported to destinations such as the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. He says he would like to see the other 13 Haitians leave Guadeloupe also because they have no means of support. He says those 13 are not being detained and they have not been charged with any crime due to lack of evidence.

ST LUCIA

AGRICULTURE MINISTER ON IMPORTS, PRODUCTION

FL241256 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] St Lucia's minister of agriculture says food imports to his island have increased to approximately $2 billion [as heard]. He says regional production is unsatisfactory and that new policies need to be devised which will remove production constraints. He says traditional export curbs still dominate local agriculture and import substitution opportunities are, therefore, tremendous. His comments came during the seventh Agriculture Ministers' Committee Meeting yesterday in Castries.